Industrial Worker

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Union Scab Elected to Decatur Council

Striking and locked-out Decatur workers recently made the mistake of diverting their struggle into the political arena. Dave Watts, president of the A.E. Staley workers' local, ran for a seat on the city council, as did IBEW business agent Michael Carrigan. A "friends of labor" coalition backed Watts, Carrigan, and mayoral candidate Terry Howley. The latter two were elected.

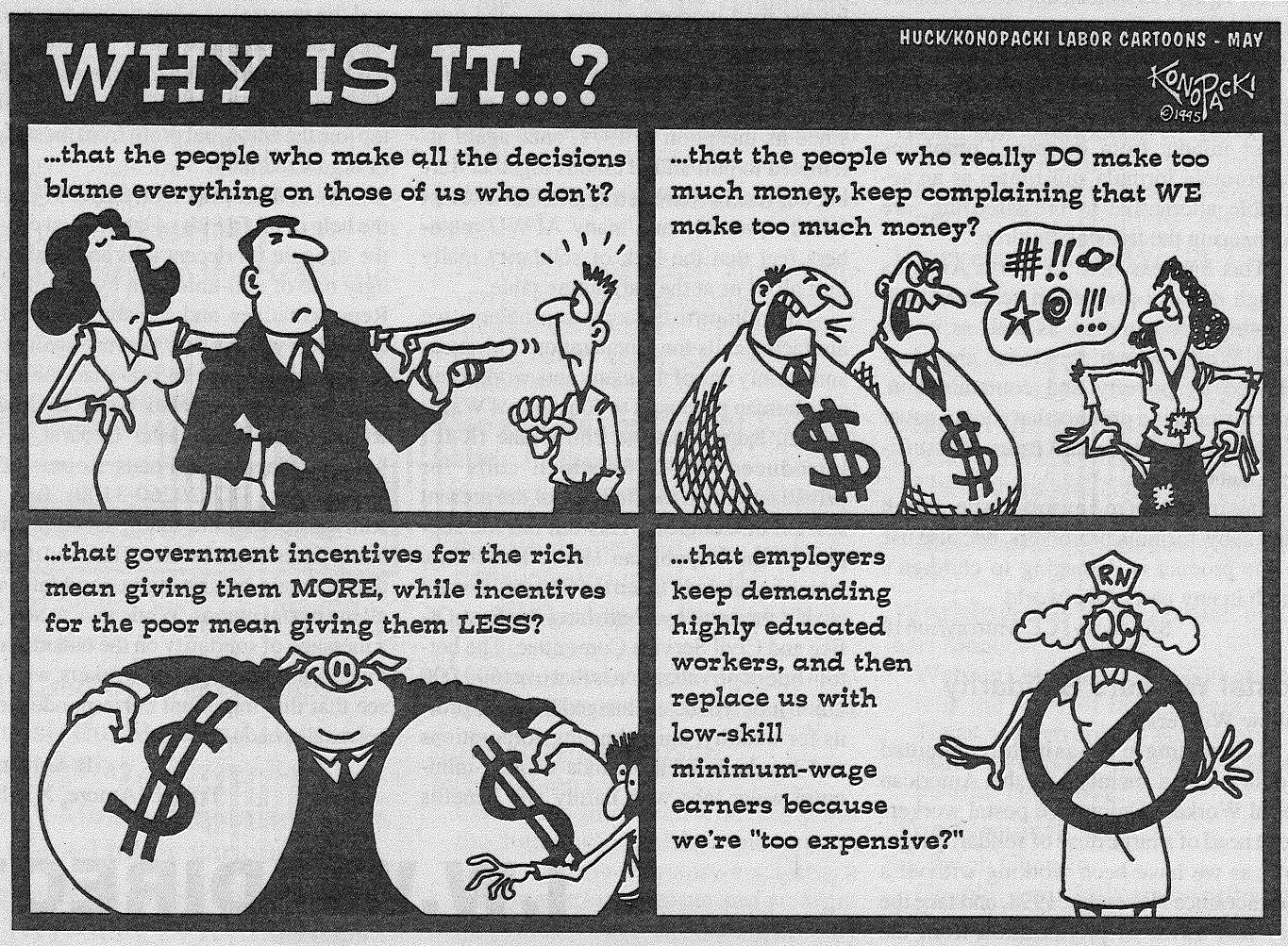
New "labor" council member Michael Carrigan is an out-and-out union scab. Carrigan's IBEW local has scabbed on workers at A.E. Staley, Firestone/Bridgestone and Caterpillar since those workers were first locked-out or went on strike. These union scabs (and their fellow scabs from other building trades unions and from the International Association of Machinists) maintain the equipment for the scabs, and keep the scab-operated plants running.

It is high time the labor movement took a firm stand against this sort of union scabbing. If union workers refused to go into those plants, refused to deliver product and services to and from them, refused to work with or install scab goods, etc., Caterpillar, Bridgestone/Firestone and A.E. Staley would be forced to surrender almost immediately. Instead, the labor movementis divided into hundreds of separate unions and units, each of which pleads the "sacred contract" or "respect for law" to justify their treachery. And instead of treating theseunion scabs as the class traitors that they are, we *proclaim them "friends of labor"* and elect them to office so that they can rub elbows with the business executives and other corporate hirelings whose interests they serve. No wonder we're getting whipped.

Republicans With Bombs

When news of the Oklahoma bombing came over the radio, I knew immediately that it was a Republican job. Blowing up a daycare center, small children, social secu-

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World Unions Meet in Nepal Against Privatization, for Militant Unionism

An International Trade Union Conference was held in Kathmandu, Nepal, last December around the theme "Support Pro-Worker Unionism, Oppose Privatization." The conference was hosted by the General Federation of Nepalese Trade Unions (GEOFONT), and included participants from the International Workers Association (AIT) secretariat, Swedish Workers Centralorganization (SAC), New Zealand Trade Union Federation, National Garment Workers Federation of Bangladesh, Jatio Sramik (National Workers Federation of Bangladesh), Bangladesh Agricultural Farm Labor Federation, All India Central Council of Trade Unions, Center of Indian Trade Unions, All India Trade Unions Congress, Hyundai Trade Union Federation (Korea), National Union of Employees in Mainifaltorin Rubbe Produci (Malaysia), All Pakistan Trade Unions Federation, Kilusang Mayo Uno (Philippines), United Plantation Services Employees Union (Sri Lanka), Industrial Transport and General Workers Union (Sri Lanka), Solidarity Front of Women Workers (Taiwan), Asia Pacific Workers Solidarity Links, and several other organizations.

Although several of the participating unions are linked to communist or socialist political parties, syndicalists and independent unionists also participated, and many delegates (even from party-affiliated unions) seemed interested in syndicalist ideas.

Before the official opening of the conference, several participants visited two brick factories, one privately owned, the other owned by the government. The working conditions were the same at both plants, and at both managers told fairy tales about the wonderful working conditions. Naturally, no workers were invited to these sessions, but several came out to the buses afterwards to contradict the managers' claims.

After a welcoming speech by Nepal's prime minister (a former union official), the conference began with reports on the economic, political and social situation in participant's countries. Privatization and liberalization policies are being implemented across the board, as transnational companies and their financial institutions (the IMF and the World Bank) seek to maximize their exploitation of workers.

Workers' conditions in many Asian countries long ago reached the level of mod-

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Wobblies Attacked at Chiapas Demo

We met with high spirits in front of the Mexican Consulate in downtown Salt Lake City. The ostensible purpose of our rally was to show solidarity with the EZLN (Ejercito Zapatista por la Liberacion Nacional), the Zapatistas. Coming off a wonderful pre-May Day celebration in Liberty Park over the weekend, there was nothing but warm smiles all around (the sun was even smiling brightly at us on this beautiful May 1st, May Day, or International Workers Day as we call it).

Within minutes of our noon rally time, the group was assembled. We picked up our signs and began the drum-beatin', guitar-playin' demonstration to the gawks of standers-by, including those working (on May Day!?!) in the Consulate. After a ten-minute rally in front of the Consulate to protest the Mexican government,we began our 2-mile march down the streets of Salt Lake, headed, in a roundabout way, for the Federal Building, to protest our own government for its complicity in the situation in Chiapas.

Emboldened by our 40-strong cohesive delegation, we took our march to the streets. Surprisingly, there were no angry cars, no cops, nothing. We couldn't have asked for a better march!

Apparently, security at the Federal Building were none too pleased at our lack of a permit to demonstrate in their plaza. One security person ran around asking who was in charge, so that he could escort them to the second floor to get a permit.

Soon, three city cops arrived, informing us of what we could not do (no standing in any part of the street, no standing on concrete structures (other than the sidewalk?), no blocking sidewalk traffic, etc.). We abided.

After a great organic musical jam in front of the Building, we began our march back to the Consulate, again taking to the streets. We're two blocks from the Consulate and the end of our little, peaceful vigil/march. So far, so good, eh? Well...

As we approached the intersection just two blocks from our march's end, one car directly behind three of our lagging marchers kept honking and shouting epithets. Unfortunately, that only provoked our three members to walk more slowly. Not only that, one of them halfway sat on the hood of the car. The two people in the car immediately got out and came around and knocked the signs out of two people's hands.

A small scuffle began. A plainclothes-person who had apparently been tailing us

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Bunker Hill Mine: A Crime Against the Working Class

Bolivian Unionists Herded into Concentration Camps

Teaching Bosses to Take "No" For An Answer

Wobbly Recyclers Fight For New Contract

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— LETTERS —

Boycott Nestle

Dear IW:

The unethical marketing practices of Nestle's breastmilk substitutes (*Industrial Worker* April 1995) also appears to violate the World Health Organization (WHO) code, though this was not mentioned in the article.

As well as nutrition, human breast milk contains natural immune substances that protect infants from disease. Companies that promote formula substitutes as an acceptable alternative to breastfeeding, are endangering the lives of children.

This happens here in North America through devious promotion schemes such as giving free samples, as well as in the Third World where problems are compounded by poverty and contamination. Baby formula is a product that should never be used except in the rare cases of insufficient lactation.

It is important to boycott Nestle, and all other baby-formula promoters, because use of this product is damaging to children's health in any part of the world.

Solidarity, CL Murray/iu610

Postal Workers Solidarity

Fellow Workers,

I am writing to you as both a committed Wobbly and a member of the American Postal Workers Union. We postal workers are in need of a large dose of solidarity right now, as we have been working without a contract since November 1994, and face the very real threat of privatization from the Gingrich syndicate in Washington.

My union, the APWU, represents over 350,000 workers in various positions in the U.S. Postal Service and along with three other unions, which represent over 250,000 additional postal workers, we face the prospect of binding arbitration in our current contract round because the USPS has flat out refused to bargain in good faith. In fact, the Postal Service has broken the 1990 contract by refusing to give COLA raises to the lowest paid workers among us – the over 24,000 temporary slaves.

The APWU, which has campaigned for one big industrial union in the post office since its inception in 1971, once again attempted to pull all the unions together during our recent shared struggle. This attempt failed miserably and many APWU members feel that the lack of solidarity really hurt all of us at the bargaining table.

In addition to the contract problems, we are facing calls for privatization. This measure is only one of the many anti-worker and anti-human proposals to come out of Washington. Representative Phil Crane (R-IL) introduced HR 210, which calls for privatization, on the first day of the present session of Congress. This bill has the support of the Republican House leadership, which has already taken the first step toward such a measure by abolishing the Post Office and Civil Service Committee. The bottom line of privatization is that over 600,000 union jobs will be exchanged for more profits for wealthy, union-busting corporations and hundreds of thousands of near-minimum wage jobs with hardly any benefits and no union protection for the slaves of the mail.

Besides current contract disputes, the fight against privatization and the quest for one big postal union, the APWU is struggling for long-term gains such as federal recognition of the workers' right to strike and the reversal of a legislative prohibition on agency shop fees. Shop fees would permit the postal unions to charge a service fee to the permanent, full-time scabs that refuse top join the union, but profit from the struggle of organized labor.

Now, more than ever, the APWU needs the help of all friends of labor. You can join the struggle for decent jobs and against the ugly tide of anti-unionism by writing your Representatives and Senators and telling them that you are 100 percent against any measure that seeks to privatize the Postal Service. You can also write to Marvin Runyon, the Post Master General, at 475 Lenfant Plaza SW, Focus Room 10523, Washington DC 20260-3100. Tell Mr. Runyon to stop the unfair labor practices being perpetrated by his office, and demand that be begin bargaining in good faith with all the postal unions. While you're at it, add a message of solidarity on the outside envelope to the many postal workers who will see that this important correspondence receives a speedy delivery.

In Solidarity,
Trish D'Amore, X341628

Poisoned by Uncle Sam

Fellow Workers,

This note is to congratulate you on carrying the review of *American Ground Zero* by Carole Gallagher in your May 1995 issue.

The Myths of August by Stuart Udall (Pantheon) is also worthy of note. *The Nation* (Feb. 20) gave it a good review, and in view of the position the Smithsonian has taken on the Enola Gay exhibit these reviews are very important and timely.

The nuclear testing mention in *American Ground Zero* all took place at the Nevada Test Site, and not in Utah where most of the damage was done since they were downwind of the test site.

My interest in all this is because in the Fall of 1945 I was assigned to Nagasaki as part of the Marine occupation force. We were good enough to send to such places as Okinawa, Saipan, Iwo Jima, etc., but not one word of warning was ever given to us about the dangers of radiation in Nagasaki. Over 250,000 members of the services were exposed to tests from Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 to Nevada in 1962...

Enclosed is $50 for the Industrial Worker Sustaining Fund in memory of my old friend Ralph Chaplin, whom I knew in Tacoma, Washington, in his later years.

—Walter Hook
Cambridge NY

Industrial Worker

THE VOICE OF REVOLUTIONARY UNIONISM

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I.W.W. DIRECTORY

Job Branch= 5 or more members in workplace
GMB=General Membership Branch IU=Industrial Union Del=Delegate
GOC= Organizing Committee.
IU 120: Forest Workers
IU 450: Print & Publishing Workers
IU 460: Food Processing Workers
IU 610: Health Workers
IU 620: Education Workers
IU 630: Entertainment Workers
IU 660: General Distribution Workers
IU 670: Public Service Workers

AUSTRALIA

NEW SOUTH WALES

Sydney Area Group– Del:Ray Elbourne, Corner Dittons Ln. & Old Illawara Hwy, Sutton Forest NSW 2577.

CANADA

MANITOBA

Winnipeg GMB– B. Mackay, PO Box 3204, GNPO, R3C 4E7

ONTARIO

Ottawa GMB– 388 1/2 Kent, K2P 2A9. 613/231-2922 <indwrk@web.apc.org>
Toronto Group– 11 Andrews Ave M6J 1S2. 416/941-9945 Meets 1st Thurs 7 pm; phone for location.

UNITED KINGDOM

GOC British Isles/IU620– F.Lee, Secular Hall 75 Humberstone Gate, Leicester LE1 1WB. 0533-661835
London Group and Couriers Union– 10a Bradbury Street, London N16 8JN. Couriers Union Hotline 071 358 9124
Oxford Group– c/o Oxford Claimants and Unemployed Workers Union, East Oxford Community Centre, Princes Street
Central Scotland IWW and Postal Workers– PO Box 1094, Glasgow G14 0EL
Health Workers IU610 Contact: Harry Girling, c/o Ipswich Community Resource Ctr, 16 Old Foundry Rd., Ipswich IP4 2DU
IU660 Contact: Ray Carr, 40 Cornwallis Circle, Whitstable Kent CT5 1DU

Swindon Region GMB/IU670 & Research Councils IU 620 Group– Del: Kevin Brandstatter, Polaris House, North Star Avenue, Swindon SN2 1UH; Tel: 0793-610707
Somerset– Davey Garland, Box23, 5 High St. Glastonbury Somerset.

Stevenson College IU620 Job Branch– Derek Devine (del), 1 Lochrin Place (4F1), Tollcross, Edinburgh EH3 8QX

UNITED STATES

CALIFORNIA

Mendocino– Bill Meyers, del. 707/884-1818.
San Diego Group– 619/284-WOBS
Santa Cruz GMB– PO Box 534, 95061 <sciww@ucscb.ucsc.edu>
IU450 New Earth Press Job Shop– 1921 Ashby Berkeley 94703 510/549-0176
IU620 Job Shop UCB Recyclers– 620 Eshleman B'k'ly 94720 Daniel Widener
IU670 Berkeley Recycling Ctr. Job Shop– M. Carlstroem, 2515 Piedmont #8, 94607
Los Angeles GMB– Meets 2nd, 4th Sundays. Location call (24hr): 213/368-4604. Andrew Willett 1724 Westmoreland Blvd., LA 90006.
IU630 Film Workers– Miguel Sanchez, 1748 Clinton St. LA 90026 213/368-4604
SF Bay Area GMB– PO Box 40485, 94140 Office: 1095 Market St. #616 (open Thursdays, 11 am - 5 pm) 415/863-WOBS East Bay Office– c/o Long Haul Resource Center, 3124 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 94705 510/540-0751

COLORADO

IU450 P&L Printing Job Shop– 2298 Clay, Denver 80211. 303/433-1852
Denver/Boulder– Del:Cliff Sundstrom 910 E.8th Av.#202, 80218. 303/832-7602. Brendan Ruiz,POB 370663, 80237-0663

GEORGIA

Atlanta Group– George Nikas, 21 Clarendon Place, Avondale Estates. gnikas@unix.cc.emory.edu Lorenzo Ervin Kom'boa– 218 Adair Ct. #5, Decatur GA 30030. 404/687-8324

HAWAI'I

O'ahu GMB– PO Box 11928,Honolulu 96822; 808/247-8584; email: wilcox@uhunix.uhcc.hawaii.edu

ILLINOIS

Chicago GMB– 4043 N. Ravenswood#205A 60613. 312/549-5045. Meets 1st Fri. 7:30 pm.

LOUISIANA

Baton Rouge Group– Steve Donahue, 729 Bungalow Ln 70802. 504/389-9572.

MARYLAND

Baltimore GMB– Tarawa IWW, PO Box 88821, 21224. Del: R Bey, 301/367-3024

MASSACHUSETTS

IU630 GOC– Jim Barclay, 75A Elm St. Worcester 01609
Boston Group– Steve Kellerman, del. 617/469-5162

MICHIGAN

SE Mich.GMB– 103 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti 48197. 313/483-3548
IU630 Workers Stories Workers Lives Job Shop– Albert Parsons 313/769-0695
IU670 Ann Arbor Tenants Union Job Shop– 4001 Michigan Union, Ann Arbor 48109. 313/763-6876.

MINNESOTA

Duluth GMB– 1514 N. 8th Avenue E, 55805. Del: Jack Rosenquist

MISSISSIPPI

Gulfport Group– C.G.Streuly 601/896-3515

MONTANA

Butte– Mark Ross 111 W.Quartz 59701. 406/782-4465

NEW YORK

IU670 Socialist Party USA Natl Office Job Shop– 516 W. 25th St. #404, NYC 10001. 212/691-0776
Capital District Group– POB 74, Altamont NY 12009. (518)861-5627
Rochester– Del: Ric Garren, 716/232-4005
NYC GMB– Del: Wade Rawluk, 5610 Netherland Ave #4D, Bronx NY 10471. 718/796-3671. Rochelle Semel, RD 1 Box 158-B, Hartwick 13348. 607/293-6489

PENNSYLVANIA

IU630 Boulevard Bingo Job Shop– Tina Gaffney 215/821-5622
Lehigh Valley GMB– POB 4133 Bethlehem 18018 610/515-0181. Del: Trish D'Amore 434-0128. email: len.flank@father.com
Reading Group– PO Box 8468, 19603. Del: Dennis Good 215/921-2459; Rick Page 215/562-3487
Philadelphia GMB/ IU450 Duplicators Network– 4722 Baltimore Ave. 19143. 215/747-0855.
IU660 Wooden Shoe Books Records Job Shop– 112 S. 20th St. 19103. 215/569-2477. <ulrikc@templevm.bitnet>

SOUTH CAROLINA

IU450 Harbinger Publications Job Shop– Merll Truesdale, del., 18 Bluff Rd. Columbia 29201. 803/254-9398

TEXAS

Houston Group– PO Box 981101, 77098.

UTAH

Salt Lake Branch– Tony Roehrig, PO Box 520514, Salt Lake City 84152-0514. 801/485-1969

VERMONT

Burlington Group– Anne Petermann, Orin Langelle POB 804, 05402. 802/658-2403. <peacejustice@igc.apc.org>

WASHINGTON

IU460 Fairhaven Co-op Flour Mill Job Shop– 1115 Railroad Ave. Bellingham 98225.
Industrial Transportation Project– Arthur Miller, POB 5464, Tacoma 98415-0464
Puget Sound GMB– PO Box 20752, Seattle 98102 Del.: Stan Anderson, 206/367-0477

WISCONSIN

IU450 Lakeside Press Job Shop– 1334 Williamson, Madison 53703 608/255-1800. Delegate: Jerry Chernow
Madison GMB– PO Box 2605, 53701. 608/255-1800. Del:Tim Wong, Jerry Chernow

Education and Health Hot Up

20,000 education workers, parents and kids marched through the streets of London on 25 March campaigning against cuts in schools. The marchers were from all areas of the country and it was obvious that for many this was the first time they had ever been involved in political protest. People from the Tory shires and decaying inner cities were united for the first time in a show of solidarity against the government. What a pity that the unions at national level ignored the event. The National Union of Teachers organised a 1,000 strong lobby of parliament on a different day in a show of pique at not being allowed to control the protest. Many rank and fiel teachers however ignored their leaders and joined in. A big IWW flag was on the march ably flown by two Wobblies. It was spotted on the TV as well in alll its glory!

The "Fight Against Cuts in Education" (FACE) intends taking the protests all around the country and are planning a natioanl rally in the late spring.

On 30 March thousands and thousands of health workers took to the streets to protest against government pay policy. The government has offered a 1 percent rise to nurses and othere in the service with an extra 2 percent up for grabs locally. Local managements are doing their utmost to deny this extra 2 percent by attaching strings to any deal. For example a number of employers have said it will be linked to sickness records, attendance, conduct, etc., etc. The unions are calling for 3 percent and no strings. Members of IU 610 plan their own leaflet on the health service soon.

Around Our Union

Chicago Wobblies Protest Capitalism

Chicago Wobblies and friends (including two from Indiana and one from Champaign) picketed the Chicago Federal Reserve Bank May 1st as part of the international May Day action against the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. (There are no offices of either the World Bank of the IMF in Chicago; however, the Federal Reserve Bank pursues similar anti-working class policies in the domestic arena, and their are close ties between Federal Reserve and World Bank officials.)

The afternoon picket line was small but lively. Although there were never more than 16 participants at a time (not counting the federal marshals, or the fellow who came to distribute anti-semitic handbills), about two dozen people participated over the hour-and-a-half demonstration (some had to come late or leave early because of work commitments and the unseasonal chill). Chants pointed to the IMF and World Bank's role in forcing our fellow workers into misery and starvation. Between chants we belted out labor songs, ranging from the Internationale to a slightly altered version of The Preacher and the Slave (Long-haired bankers come out every night...). Hundreds of leaflets and copies of the *Industrial Worker* were distributed to passers by, several of whom seemed astonished to encounter a singing picket line.

Our picket signs, made up at the Chicago Branch May Day eve party the day before, were to the point: International Mongerers of Famine, IMF-World Bank = International Bandits, Workers of the World Unite!, and one that asked the question, "Would You bank at a place that forces you to go on a starvation diet?" Local anarchists brought a large banner, "Bite the Hand that Bleeds You," featuring an Uncle Sam with blood dripping from his fangs. (The only May Day event in Chicago, our picket was also joined by members of the New Union Party, Democratic Socialists of America, and the 50 Years is Enough Coalition. One FW learned about the protest when the local public radio station mentioned it in their morning newscast as the local angle to a

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Michigan Wobs Fanning Flames

The Southeast Michigan General Membership Branch hosted an open house in the new union headquarters (103 West Michigan, Ypsilanti) May 7th, with performances by Wobbly folk singer Len Wallace, dramatist Elise Bryant, and Workers' Stories, Workers' Lives. On May 9th they began a weekly labor film series with a showing of "The Killing Floor," while May 14th kicked off a series of evening coffee houses.

Upcoming events include: Sunday, May 21, 6-9pm, Coffee House; Tuesday, May 23, 7:30pm, Film: "Matewan"; Thursday, May 25, 7:30pm, Speaker/discussion tba; Sunday, May 28, 6-9pm, Coffee House; Tuesday, May 30, 7:30pm, Film: "Salt of the Earth."



SF East Bay IWW Hall Opens

After the recent elections and the subsequent move of the IWW General Administration office from San Francisco, it became capparent that some re-organizing was needed. Since most of the Bay area Wobblies live and work in the East Bay (Berkeley, Oakland, El Cerrito), the March 1995 meeting of the San Francisco Bay Area General Membership Branch voted to open an East Bay office.

The site chosen was the infamous Long Haul in Berkeley. The new office is being shared with the organizing group, the Network of Bay Area Worker Collectives, or "No BOSS" as they are known. A fitting arrangement that has yet to be utilized. Only two of the businesses involved with "No BOSS" are currently in the Union. Members of the non-Union businesses find it hard to argue the merits of unionizing with the more capitalist-minded members. A common brush-off is the falsehood that collectives have no bosses to worry about – ignoring the city, state and federal "bosses" (and the dictates of the capitalist market) that they deal with on a day-to-day basis. Eventually, the more work and organizing the Union does with the collectives, the more they will see the need to organize. While we would like to see the Union grow, our first concern is to better serve the membership already in place at the job shops.

The ASUC Recycling & Composting Projects comprise one of the job shops in Berkeley. The Projects, with three delegates and 70 workers, have been under the strain of a conservative senate (their direct employer, as the agent of the University which disclaims all responsibility for these workers) and high employee turn-over each semester. The good news is that the conservatives are on the way out and a pro-recycling student president has been elected. Of course, time will tell how "pro" recycling he really is once the University gets a hold of him.

Berkeley's Curb-Side Recyclers have been in stalled contract negotiations for over a year with the Ecology Center. The process has been bogged down by condescending "eco" managers with a $2 million a year city recycling contract on one side, and rank-and-file workers trying to negotiate a contract on their off hours on the other. The C.S. Recyclers have been able to keep things going with a few meetings and legal advice and support from FW Marc Janowitz, the Union's General Counsel. Workers are fed up with pseudo-liberal "good-faith" negotiating and are considering a more *direct action* approach to negotiating.

The New Earth Press shop has remained it's stable self. FW Dave Karoly has been spending a lot of his extra time laying out a joint ad for the "No BOSS" group. New Earth's latest book is *Voice of Fire* (communiqués and interviews with the EZLN). If you're interested in picking up a copy, contact New Earth Press, 1921 Ashby, Berkeley CA 94703; send $10.95 (+ tax if California resident).

A new job shop has joined the ranks of the IWW, the Berkeley Recycling Buyback Station. They have joined in IU 670 with the Curb-Side Recyclers. These two job shops, together with the ASUC Recyclers, handle a very proportion of Berkeley's total waste stream. This fact can only strengthen their position in demanding better conditions.

Public relations for the IWW has been fantastic, with FW Stephen Dunifer's pirate radio phenomenon, Free Radio Berkeley/Oakland. The pirate station broadcasts 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Several Wobblies add to the bizarre and diverse staff. Every evening at 5:30 to 6:30 pm, the Radical News Hour features local and international labor struggles and human rights issues. The Union has been receiving a lot of good press on the airwaves, and the radio has proved to be an excellent organizing tool. FW Dunifer advocates that everyone should have a transmitter and the freedom to use it.

The new East Bay office will be open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 3 to 6 pm, and Sundays from 6 to 9 pm. These are short hours, but they will be increased when needed. We are looking forward to working closer with the Santa Cruz and West Coast Wobblies. And, as always, we most look forward to creating a new society out of the shell of the old.

Saoirse! — Liam Flynn

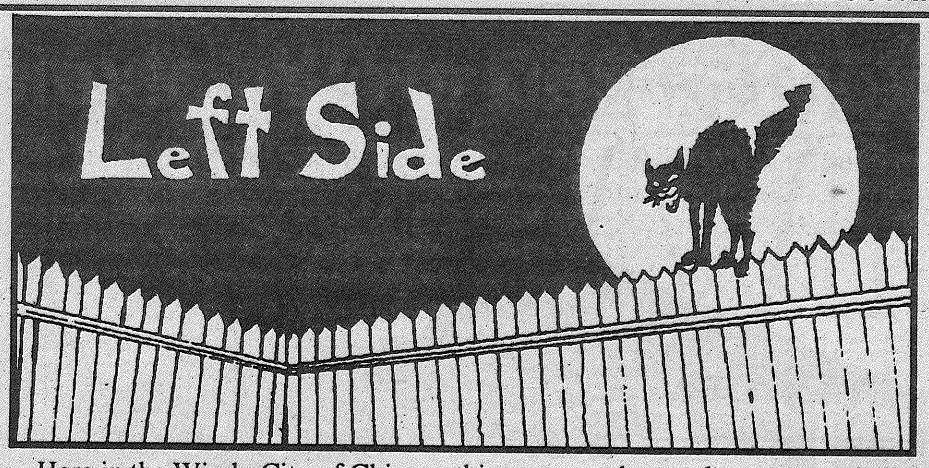
Preamble to the IWW Constitution

The working class and the employing class have nothing in common. There can be no peace so long as hunger and want are found among millions of the working people and the few, who make up the employing class, have all the good things of life. **Between these two classes** a struggle must go on until the workers of the world organize as a class, take possession of the means of production, abolish the wage system, and live in harmony with the Earth.

We find that the centering of the management of industries into fewer and fewer hands makes the trade unions unable to cope with the ever-growing power of the employing class. The trade unions foster a state of affairs which allows one set of workers to be pitted against another set of workers in the same industry, thereby helping defeat one another in wage wars. Moreover, the trade unions aid the employing class to mislead the workers into the belief that the working class have interests in common with their employers.

These conditions can be changed and the interests of the working class upheld only by an organization formed in such a way that all members in any one industry, or in all industries if necessary, cease work whenever a strike or lockout is on in any department thereof, thus making an injury to one an injury to all.

Instead of the conservative motto, "A fair day's wage for a fair day's work," we must inscribe on our banner the revolutionary watchword, "Abolition of the wage system." **It is the historic mission of the working class to do away with capitalism.** The army of production must be organized, not only for everyday struggle with the capitalists, but also to carry on production when capitalism shall have been overthrown. By organizing industrially we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old.



Here in the Windy City of Chicago this past month, people were scandalized by an event that appeared in the newspapers. An 82-year-old circuit court judge was driving down one of the thoroughfares of one of the poorest sections of town when he had a fatal heart attack. He slumped over his steering wheel and his car stopped only when it ran into the car ahead of him. According to the occupant of the second car, several people on the sidewalk, upon seeing the prostrate form of the judge, rushed up to his car and opened the doors and proceeded going through the judge's pockets — stripping him clean of his wallet and other valuables as well as rifling whatever there was in the car. Had the emergency squad been a little later in arriving at the scene, the late judge might well have been divested of his clothing.

I was reminded of some decades ago when there was a plane crash in the mountains of southern Mexico where there were no survivors. When the rescue party finally arrived at the scene, the corpses were divested not only of any valuable, but of their clothing as well. I remember an aunt of mine being horrified that people would stoop to robbing corpses. I had to remind her that the people who lived there lived under conditions of extreme poverty, and that I could understand their reasoning. The clothing was no longer of any use to dead people and they needed the clothing far more than did any corpses. But there are those who still don't recognize that extremes in poverty can have an adverse impact on moral standards.

It is indeed ironic that there are those who wax indignant over the robbing of the dead while at the same time billions of living people are being plundered every day.

Some decades back, the honchos of nuclear armaments had announced a "clean" bomb that would only kill people but not do any damage to "property"! One need not speculate on whose "property" was being referred to.

I was sharply reminded of this little tidbit by an item in the same paper. A father and son team of bank robbers were finally apprehended after a series of robberies. Between them they received over six hundred years in prison to be served consecutively with the provision that there is no chance of parole until they serve 85 percent of their sentence.

The maximum penalty for killing another human is either death or serving a life sentence with a chance for parole. In some cases a murderer can get out after a few years, depending on how skillful a shyster he may have, but if you choose to rob the bankers, forget about it!

But such can be expected in a society where property takes preference over human life.

Peter Maggs of the University of Illinois, who happens to be their specialist on Soviet law, has not been dismayed by the erstwhile beacon of socialism's attack on Chechnia. He is still optimistic that the USSR's successor, the Commonwealth of Independent States, can still develop into a market-oriented law-abiding society. The reason for such optimism, according to a recent article of his in the university newsletter, was that Freedomland was "developing a legal and economic system while the cavalry was out massacring Indians." But did not all market-oriented law-abiding "societies" become nurtured on the blood of weaker societies?

The Greek philosopher Aeschylus was the one who said, "In war, truth is the first casualty." Don't forget, Fellow Workers, those who have all the goodies are at constant war against those of us who would like some of those goodies for ourselves.

Draftees of the World, Unite! You have nothing to lose but your generals!

—C.C. Redcloud

Save Mumia Abu-Jamal's Life

Mumia Abu-Jamal, a long-time black political activist, is on death row in Pennsylvania despite substantial evidence that he is innocent of the charges against him (killing a cop). Pennsylvania's new governor ran on a platform of speeding up executions, so it is urgent that people write Fov. Thomas Ridge (Main Capital Bldg., Room 225, Harrisburg PA 17120) demanding that he not sign Abu-Jamal's death warrant, but instead grant a new trial with full disclosure of all evidence.

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Editor's Notebook

rity offices, government workers and the like – it's a Republican wet dream.

Not only were the targets the Republican's favorite victims; it fits their past criminal trajectory as well. Who, after all, can forget the chortling George Bush as he launched thousands of bombs against Iraqi children, baby formula plants, dams, etc., or Ronald Reagan's and Ollie North's glee at sending terrorists against peasants, schools, health clinics and the like in Central America.

The talk shows the next day were filled with invective against Arab Americans, but it was right-wingers after all. Just in time to muddy the waters came Unabomb and the communiqué published in the New York Times in which the bomber(s) claim to be anarchists and spell out their rather bizarre creed: "Our more immediate goal... is the destruction of the worldwide industrial system. Through our bombings we hope to promote social instability in industrial society [and] propagate anti-industrial ideas..."

Why anyone would want to dismantle the productive apparatus so essential to keeping us alive (which is quite a different matter from reorganizing the means and processes of production to make them safer, more pleasant, and more eco-friendly) is a question I will leave aside. Regrettably, the Unabomber is correct in claiming that such ideas are gaining wider (though still minuscule) support. Presumably this is less a manifestation of growing insanity than of a failure to think through the implications. Chicago would not be a pleasant place to live without buildings, heat, food, transportation, etc. But it could be a very much more pleasant place to live if the people who live here had the opportunity to make the decisions that affect our lives and our work.

Draped in Corpses

As the bodies were being pulled from the Oklahoma rubble, politicians were scrambling over each other to drape themselves in the mutilated corpses and proclaim their commitment to repressive legislation. The Clinton administration wants to make it easier for the FBI to infiltrate and spy on organizations (currently they are required to have some reason to believe an organization contemplates engaging in illegal activity before infiltrating and disrupting it, a requirement honored primarily in the breech), and wants the right to deport our immigrant fellow workers at will, upon the mere suspicion that they are associated with a "terrorist" group. (In referring to "terrorists" the politicians are not referring to the mad bombers who terrorize the population in Bosnia, Iraq, Chechnya, etc.; rather they refer to those who practice murder and mayhem on a somewhat smaller scale, if only because they lack the means to make the rest of us finance their violence.) Congress seems poised to go along, though a few gumpets want more draconian measures (only a handful have expressed any concern over civil liberties).

We can trust the FBI to protect us against terrorists, right?

Tell that to Judi Bari and Darryl Cherney, IWW organizers who were the victims of an attempted assassination on May 24, 1990. Rather than conducting an investigation, the police and FBI engaged in a coverup, declaring Bari and Cherney suspects (and handcuffing FW Bari to her hospital bed, lest she try to escape in the middle of the night with her shattered pelvis and paralyzed leg). Eventually they were forced to abandon this bizarre theory, but the FBI never conducted a bona fide investigation, and the bomber is still at large.

Several years earlier, when I was working in San Diego, local police busted three shipyard workers who had the misfortune of being a bit hotheaded and hanging out with a bad crowd (to wit, an undercover police infiltrator). One day, after a fellow worker died when management sent him into an unventilated tank to do some welding, this cop suggested that something needed to be done. Their union local was in the hands of sell-out piecards and they were frustrated and angry, and so they went along.

The cop persuaded them that a bomb would send NASSCO (National Shipbuilding) executives a clear message, provided the explosives and diagrams, and worked with them to build the bomb. But it soon occurred to them that this wasn't such a hot idea, and so they apologetically called the cop they thought was a friend to explain that they couldn't go through with it – that they were going to drive the bomb out to the desert and detonate it. They were arrested en route, and sentenced to several years in prison.

Gumpets With Guns

When I hear politicians prattle about giving the FBI and police more authority to "investigate" potential terrorists, I think of those workers. History offers little reason to believe that the FBI will investigate the "militias" and neo-fascist groups springing up across the country. They might send a few agents around those kooks from time to time, but mostly they'll be too busy infiltrating unions, civil rights organizations, peace groups, and the like. Once inside, they won't be happy merely observing and taking notes (though why anyone should have to put up with police, secret or otherwise, at their meetings is beyond me). No, they'll be stealing membership lists, slandering those who stand in their way, whipping up internal conflict and personal animosity, and trying to goad less stable fellow workers into actions that will discredit the movement or land them in jail (or both).

You needn't to take this on faith – the FBI's activities during the 1960s and '70s have been richly documented, as has the infiltration of the Central America solidarity movement in the 1980s. (Several books are available from the IWW Literature department.) Or consider the effort to lure Malcolm X's daughter into an assassination scheme just a few months ago, under the Clinton administration we are now being asked to trust with our rights.

Every once in a while folks come around the IWW talking up the "need" for armed struggle. I get articles suggesting that Wobblies organize armed militias to do battle with the army and the police, and book reviews praising books which glorify violence. One of the functions of an editor, I suppose, is to screen out these scribblings (just as wastebaskets were invented to receive them). No doubt the writers are well-meaning, if more than a tad confused.

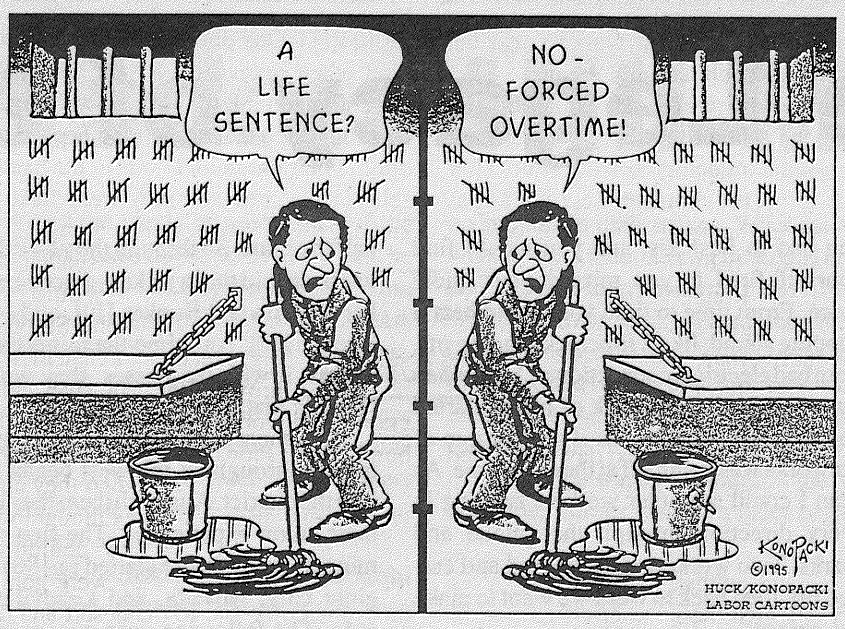
But the IWW has always rejected assassination and violence, recognizing that these are the weapons of the ruling class, of the oppressors.

It is not possible to build a new society (at least not the kind of society we wish to build) by simply killing those who disagree with us, or blowing up the offices of our opponents. Such actions merely invite an escalating cycle of violence and repression, while doing nothing to build the organized working-class power necessary to accomplish real social change.

Bosses and Cockroaches

It is easy to build a bomb. Any half-crazed religious fanatic can topple a building or shoot those they disagree with. Many of us can probably sympathize with the occasional urge to blow away a particularly obnoxious boss or politician or whatever.

One can perhaps even construct a moral argument to justify such acts. It is, after all, extremely difficult for terrorists to compete with the large-scale violence routinely inflicted by our rulers in the ordinary course of governance. It would take scores of Okla-



Teaching the Boss "No"

On March 29th and 30th, 73 out of 142 of my fellow workers at the ACCO North America Corporation in Wheeling, Illinois, signed a petition asking the management team to learn to accept "no" for an answer to management's requests for voluntary work on Sundays.

My fellow workers considered this issue to be an exceedingly small favor, since we have two shifts working six 12-hour days a week, and had already worked six Sundays in 1995 prior to the petition (seven Sundays now to date). In fact, many of our fellow workers had already worked as many as 936 hours in the first 12 weeks of the year (an average of 78 hours a week).

The issue came to a head as a result of a concerted effort by the elected representatives of our "company union" (labor/management cooperation team) to convince management to shut down production on Saturday, April 15th, so that we could get a three-day weekend during the Easter holidays (Good Friday is a paid holiday).

Management reluctantly agreed to this request, partly because we had been organizing a "Blue Monday" sick-in for April 17th in the event that Saturday was a mandatory working day with failure to attend resulting in loss of holiday pay for Friday.

However, since the battle was fought and won a month in advance of the holiday, management was able to maximize the production time available before the holiday by doing a good deal of arm-twisting and thumb-screwing of our "refractory" fellow workers who routinely decline to volunteer for work on Sundays.

The issue boiled over during the week of March 20th, when management repeatedly requested volunteers for Sunday, and eventually asked many workers to explain their refusal to volunteer.

One of our most popular sister workers, who happens to be an Elder in the Jehovah's Witnesses, became a casualty of management's intimidation campaign when her husband showed up at work demanding to speak with the plant manager and told him to back-off and leave his wife alone. Management interpreted this as a decision to quit her job, and forced her to resign.

This was a grievous tactical error, since it resulted in a virtual cannonade of close-range broadsides directed at the waterline of management's galleon by the outraged and incensed brigantes of our swifter and more maneuverable sister workers.

Many questions were raised involving the willingness of management and their stooges to "pinch-hit" at various domestic chores including, but not limited to, laundry, house cleaning, cooking, grocery shopping, banking and bill paying, home repair, auto repair, baby-sitting, elder care, gardening, etc. Management was badly rattled by this relentless barrage of sarcasm.

One woman challenged the plant manager to his face, agreeing to volunteer for Sunday if he would only be so kind as to make love to her husband in her stead. Another fellow worker said he would be afraid to make such an offer, since the plant manager might be all too willing to provide sexual surrogate services for his wife.

Thus it comes as no surprise that the number of volunteers for Sunday March 26th reached an all-time low.

What is surprising is that management, when faced with such a dearth of volunteers, took the ominous step of bringing in the "temporary workers" to operate the machinery. (The temporaries are fully one-third of our work force, and are mostly immigrants earning minimum wage; many have worked for ACCO for several years.)

In light of these developments, a decision was reached by an informal committee of activists on the shop floor to circulate a petition addressing the issue of management's arm-twisting.

> It is our understanding that working on Sunday is voluntary. We take this to mean that employees have the option of declining to work on Sunday.
>
> We would expect that management would learn to accept "No" for an answer. We find that management repeatedly requests work on Sunday after already having been told "No". We find that management has asked us for explanations, reasons and excuses for declining work on Sunday.
>
> We feel that these practices are a type of HARASSMENT. We ask management to stop these practices.
>
> Cordially,
> Your ACCO Teammates

Several days in advance of the petition drive were spent explaining the issue to our fellow workers and gauging support. This also allowed us to avoid wasting time during the actual petitioning haggling over the issue with unsympathetic fellow workers, and helped identify company loyalists to be avoided at all costs. In fact, secrecy was maintained up until the time signatures were collected during the first shift.

The signatures of our second shift fellow workers were collected during scheduled breaks, lunch times, and before and after the shift in the parting lot. Signatures from the first shift were collected by this writer, who works second shift and is the lone Wobbly on the shop floor. After having punched out at the end of my shift, I made the rounds from machine to machine, collecting signatures and substituting for my fellow workers with pen in hand so as to not interfere with that most precious commodity: production.

Everything ran like clockwork until about 4 am (shift change is 3 am), when I attracted the attention of management stooges, who are, interestingly enough, habitually late for work. (Such are the benefits of being a stooge.)

Management's stooges (also known as "team leaders") began dogging my footsteps and looking over the shoulders of potential signers, and otherwise breathing down the necks of our fellow workers until we decided to stop with 73 signatures out of a possible 142. We remain confident that we could have easily collected 100 signatures or more, had the stooges not interfered.

Nevertheless, 50 percent support for the petition is definitely an encouraging sign that my fellow workers are capable of solidarity.

The petition was delivered to the president of our company on March 31st, and elicited a good deal of hand-wringing apologetics. These apologies were somewhat insincere, however, couched in terms of denial and professions of innocence.

Management made a clear statement that any form of intimidation or harassment was unacceptable. However, management emphasized the notion that those fellow workers who habitually volunteer for work on Sundays should not in any way be ridiculed or belittled.

Meanwhile, behind the scenes, the plant manager mobilized his stooges for a vicious, mean-spirited witch hunt against "trouble makers." I intend to discuss this backlash in a future article. I have not yet been able to uncover all the facts, since my fellow workers have been seriously shaken and are reluctant to speak.

continued on page 10

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homa City blasts to equal the murder and devastation inflicted at the behest of any US president in recent memory. And so, if we are to conduct human affairs on the principle of vengeance, assassination might have a certain appeal.

But, as a fellow worker once reminded me, politicians are like cockroaches. You can run around with a rolled up newspaper smashing roaches all day long, and it won't do a damned bit of good. If you really want to get rid of cockroaches, you have to eliminate the conditions in which they breed.

It's easy to make a bomb or shoot a gun. Organizing is much harder. It requires patience, perseverance, and a lot of work. But if we want to do away with capitalism and build a free society based upon workers' control and economic democracy, this can only be done with the active support and involvement of our fellow workers. Such a job requires organized working-class power, it requires education and agitation.

That's why our fellow workers came together in Chicago 90 years ago to found the Industrial Workers of the World. Today their work remains to be completed. It's a big job, and we need the help of everyone to pull it off. Are you with us, fellow worker?

— Jon Bekken

from the desk of...

We get a lot of magazines, journals, and newspapers at General Headquarters in exchange for copies of the *Industrial Worker*. Recent efforts by IW Editor Bekken to prune the list to those who really want our newspaper has brought a flurry of responses from other publications. I rarely have time to read much, if any, of it; but I have taken to leafing through the incoming in search of graphics to borrow for the IWW's internal document, the "General Organization Bulletin." In the March issue of the United Auto Worker's' *Solidarity* magazine I stumbled across some interesting statistics I hope you'll find useful. They don't really tell us much we couldn't have already guessed. But they do provide some concrete economic arguments for organizing. Apologies to the fellow workers in Australia, Canada, and Great Britain for using US statistics. But it's what's at hand; and I doubt the picture is significantly different there.

In 1980 the average pay for a Chief Executive Officer of a major company was 42 times higher than that of a factory worker. I'm remembering working in an IWW shop in the '80s where we grumbled about accepting a wage structure which allowed the store manager to make 2 1/2 times the wage of a starting worker. Today that average CEO wage has grown to 149 times that of a factory worker. The richest 20% of Americans got 77% of all raises and other income increases in 1993.

7.5 million US workers were unemployed in January of this year. Another 6.5 million have either taken part time employment or simply given up looking for work. 25% of U.S. workers have only part time jobs. Manpower, Inc. is the nation's biggest employer.

Worker productivity here increased by 5.9% from 1988 to 1993. Over the same period the value of wages decreased by 4%.

The number of children living in poverty in the US has reached a record 6 million.

And if you're wondering why your kid can't stretch that minimum wage income as far as you did a generation ago, there's an explanation. The 1968 minimum hourly wage, measured in 1994 dollars, was worth $6.29. Today due to inflation that figure is $4, a 40-year low.

What's wrong with this picture? Working class people are producing more for wages which buy less. The gap between rich and poor is growing faster than at any other time in decades. And workers are getting tired of collaborating in their own exploitation.

On Mayday, according to NPR, 100,000 people demonstrated against the government in Mexico City. The "official" unions stayed away. Maybe they were concerned that they too might be targets of the demonstrators since those unions have agreed to freeze already very low wages to make the North American Free Trade Agreement work. Work for whom? Not for workers.

I find it hard to imagine that the working class will or can accept this downward spiral interminably. If the IWW's micro example is any indication, we may be seeing the stirrings of renewed resistance. Our membership is inching upward. Many of the new members are actually returning members from years, even decades ago. They're returning because times are bad and they remember that the IWW has always been a home for those willing to take risks for change.

The IWW is small and as an organization isn't likely to be a major factor in any renewal of worker militance; but the principles and tactics we continue to espouse will always be important. Based on those principles and tactics, our influence has always been greater than our numbers. And our ability to spread the word increases with every new member. So if you've been thinking about joining or rejoining us in the struggle against the ugly situation described above, now is the time.

Fred Chase, GST

The Legacy of the

Deep within the mountains of the panhandle of Idaho lies a valley that white people named Silver. This valley is the heart of what became known as the Coeur d'Alene Mining District. The Bunker Hill Mining complex, situated from the west end of the town of Kellogg and through the town of Smelterville, includes a silver, lead and zinc mine, a smelter, a zinc plant and a rail yard.

Bunker Hill has had a turbulent history spanning over 100 years. Though Bunker Hill is now closed down (hopefully for good), the final story cannot be written, for the effects will linger on for generations to come. Many histories are written in such a way that they seem distant in time and place, but the story of Bunker Hill has a personal aspect for me because I once worked there.

Back in 1972 I wandered into the town of Kellogg with my stake, built while picking fruit in Oregon, nearly exhausted. I made my way down to the main drag where I found the employment office for the Bunker Hill Mining Company. The place was

"Every miner knows that they carry a death sentence just waiting to be carried out. If they are not killed down in the mine, then the mine dust will kill them slowly."

old and run down, and gave you a feeling of stepping back in time. Once inside they had me fill out a few papers, and without reading them, and no questions asked, I was told that I would begin work the following day. Because of my youth I was assigned to the cellroom of the zinc plant where I was to be a zinc stripper.

After being handed a few papers and being told to report for the graveyard shift the next day, I decided to scope out the town and find a place to camp until I made enough to pay some landlord for a flop. From the get go I could tell that there was something different about the people, something that I had never seen before. I guess you could say there was a haunting feel about them — a sense of tragedy, a hurting look in their eyes, something that you can't quite put into words. I knew the reason for what I saw. Five miles to the east of town 91 miners had died in the Sunshine Mine only a short time before.

The Sunshine Mine was a maze of over 100 miles of tunnels reaching a mile below the surface. Old tunnels in the worked-out areas of the mine were not sealed off and were full of dried-out timber. Like the other hard rock mines in the area, the Sunshine Mine was what is called a "hot mine." Down in the hellish tunnels the temperature would exceed 100 degrees and the air was very dry. The timber would dry out and any source of ignition or sometimes even spontaneous combustion will set the timber burning.

Once the fire gets going smoke and carbon monoxide gas rapidly fill the mine's air stream and ventilation system. Once the smoke and gas reaches the miners, there is only a minute or two before they lose consciousness. The fire started at the 3,700 foot level, trapping the miners below and forcing those above to flee for their lives. Though the law calls for two ways out of a mine, this one had only one. The miners rode an elevator down to their job sites, and this hoist was operated by a worker from above.

Many hoist operators died at their posts trying to get their fellow workers out. Once the operators were overcome by smoke and gas there was no way out for the miners below. One operator later testified that "The men were choking, down on their knees." When the last hoist came up, "all the miners in it were lying on the floor – either dead or unconscious." He collapsed but was saved by a fellow miner. Nine days later the last of the 91 dead miners were found. On that same day came news of five more miners' bodies found in another mine fire in Farmington, West Virginia, where 78 miners had died and it had taken three years to find the last bodies.

Figures from the Federal Bureau of Mines show that before the fire the Sunshine Mine had an injury rate five times the average for metal mines, and that the fatality rate was twice as high. Mining inspectors had found 35 violations just two months before the fire. And that was in the areas they could inspect, the worked-out areas were too cluttered with old timber and other debris to be inspected. There had never been any fire drills in the mine, no fire escape plan, and the portable respirators were old, rusty and mostly unusable (and the miners had no training on how to use them).

After I found a place to camp, I made my way over to the Sunshine Mine. Along the way I was picked up by an old-timer who had lost his only son in the mine. He told me that he often drove up to the mine just to think about his son and to try to understand why all those miners had died. He showed me where the families had stood their 24-hour vigil for nine days. Right behind that area still stood a sign that read: "This is the first day of the rest of your life. Live it safely." Not far away was the old exhaust stack that billowed out smoke from the fire over the weeks it took before it was put out.

He told me of being a "gypo" miner for over 36 years before mine dust had destroyed so much of his lung tissue that he had to retire. He said the mine owners just didn't give a damn about the miner, it was only the ore they cared about. I asked him how the other miners in the area reacted. In a voice trembling in both grief and anger, he said, "A little bit of every miner died that day. But every miner knows that they carry a death sentence just waiting to be carried out. If they are not killed down in the mine, then the mine dust will kill them slowly." He did say that a mine east of there, the Lucky Friday Mine, had a wildcat strike 20 days after the fire when the owners refused to allow a union safety inspection team permission to accompany a Bureau of Mines safety inspection team in a tour of the mine.

The next day I made my way up past the mine and smelter to a little box canyon where the zinc plant lay hidden from sight. As I walked up the canyon I noticed that the hills around it were barren of all plant life. At the front gate stood a sign that said the plant had gone 30 days without lost time due to accidents. I was later told that a few years back, when that 30 days was accumulated, they stopped updating the sign. The zinc plant was an old, dilapidated place with rotting walls and floors, in which one had to step with some care so as not to step into a hole. The place had a sulfuric smell to it, with a few other unidentifiable aromas mixed in so that one's nose would never grow accustomed to the stench.

The cellroom was where the zinc from the mine was poured into large vats of sulfuric acid and was then charged with 15,000 volts of electricity. The zinc strippers were all young, nobody over the age of 30 was allowed to work in there. We all wore rubber boots and rubber gloves, and our clothes were patched together with rubber patches. The zinc crystallized on plates which we had to climb up onto the vats and pull up with a hook that looked like a longshoreman's hook with the point cut off. We placed the plates on a cart and then we stripped the zinc off in another area.

There were 40 plates to a cartload, and we had to do eight cartloads in a shift. That meant that if you wanted a break or lunch you had to bust ass, and you would find yourself fired if you missed your quote twice. From time to time you would hear a popping sound, like a firecracker going off, from bad electrical connections. Once, when I was there, a whole bank of plates started popping and smoking, as if a full room of fireworks was going off at the same time. As I ran I could see other workers running in every direction through the smoke and sparks. Two workers were injured and carried off, then back to work we went to make our quotas.

It goes without saying that our working conditions were atrocious, and our pay was low. The parasitic union that held the contracts, ruled by the iron law of "union jurisdiction," was worse than worthless. While I was there rank-and-file zinc strippers held a number of meetings with the idea of forming their own union. There was always much talk of their resentment and distrust of the union, the United Steel Workers of America.

There was no love for this union that was forced upon them and cared not for the workers of the district. Though the thought of this little group of young zinc strippers taking on the sell-out piecard I.W. Abel and the Right Wing USWA warmed by Wobbly heart, I knew there was no chance of success. At the first meeting I sat there not saying a word. For I had learned from past experience that a true labor organizer first listens before they open their trap. At the second meeting I spoke just once, and that was to say that the only way we could restore true unionism was to reach out to our fellow workers throughout the district.

Though nothing came of all this, other than a banding together of a number of young rebels to vent their frustration, it was interesting how history was making a full circle. For the union movement began with small groups of workers coming together.

Back in 1882, placer fold deposits were found along the banks of the Eagle and Prichard creeks. At this time, the US government was forcing a treaty upon the Coeur d'Alene Indian Nation. The Coeur d'Alenes signed the treaty that forced them to live on a reservation, and the government agreed not to wipe them out. The treaty was sent to Congress, but they did not ratify it because the news of the finding of gold reached them. So the government forced the Coeur d'Alenes to give up all land in the Silver Valley. The Northern Pacific Railroad exploited the situation by issuing their infamous "Circular No. 6" which made wild claims of gold in the valley and triggered a gold rush. Mining towns appeared almost overnight, but little gold was found. The Northern Pacific made a killing off transporting gold-crazed prospectors to the district. Though dreams of gold faded, it was the discovery of silver that made the valley the major metal production district in Idaho.

In 1885, Noah S. Kellogg obtained a grubstake and a burro from two businessmen to prospect for gold in new areas of the valley. When his grubstake was exhausted he returned unsuccessful and gave back the burro. He formed a second partnership and went looking once again. Somehow the burro had gotten loose and Kellogg and his new partners came across it. Around that time they discovered an outcropping of ore which they named Bunker Hill. The first partners sued and a judge ruled that "from the evidence of the witness, this Court is of the opinion that the Bunker Hill Mine was discovered by the jackass, Phil O'Rourke and N.S. Kellogg." Since the jackass belonged to Kellogg's first partners, they got half the mine. So through the years the story has been told that a jackass discovered Bunker Hill, owned Bunker Hill, and operated Bunker Hill. Any time the miners were up against it with the bosses, they would say "there's that jackass again."

As more and more mines opened up, miners throughout the west began to pour into the district. And with them they brought their union experiences. The first western miners' unions were started in 1867 in Virginia City, Nevada, and Leadville Colorado. The following year miners in Butte, Montana set up a union. Small independent unions spread throughout the mining camps of the west due to the fact that the mine owners gave no concern for the safety of the miners who were dying in these mines, and their pay was low. In a number of mining camps the miners were not paid in money, rather they were issued "scrip" that could only be used in company stores.

These early miners' unions had a lot of community support, not only because the miners made up a lot of these communities but also because the mine owners callously endangered these communities for the sake of profits. The best example of this was in Butte where the city passed an ordinance prohibiting the open roasting of copper ores. This process had covered the town with noxious sulfurous fumes. In December of 1891 the Boston and Montana Company disregarded this ordinance and began roasting its ore in the open. Within 48 hours there were 15 deaths and many within the community were sick and confined to their beds.

The first miners' union came to the Silver Valley in 1887, but little about this union is known for its members and activities were all secret. Organizing at Bunker Hill was hard, and anyone thought to be sympathetic to the union or who raised their voice about anything was fired. It was not until the winter of 1887-88 that the union was able to lead its first strike at Bunker Hill. On New Year's Day of 1891 a central union organization for the Coeur d'Alene district was set up called the Central Executive Committee of the Miners' Union of the Coeur d'Alenes. Throughout 1891 and 1892 Miners' Union halls were built in every mining town in the district. The miners at Bunker Hill struck for a second time over the bosses' trickery in an election over health care. The company had agreed to hold the election, but when the miners looked at the ballot they found it only had the company-supported options on it and left off the union-supported Miners' Hospital. The strike not only won the Miners' Hospital, it also raised miners' pay to that of other union mines in the district.

Later that year the mine owners and the railroad began to fight with each other because the railroad had raised their shipping rates. That winter the Mine Owners' Association shut down most of the mines to try to force a reduction of the rates. A settlement was reached in March, but before the owners would let the miners go back to work they had to agree to a reduction in wages. Thus, the first district-wide lock-out/strike came to be.

The owners brought in scabs to work the mines, leading to furious battled between union miners on one side and scabs, deputy sheriffs, gun thugs and the despised Pinkertons on the other. The owners went to the state court and got an injunction against the union, and the governor ordered the miners to "disperse all unlawful assemblages and to cease interference with the mine owners." Miners fought back any way they could, for this battle was not over just

Bunker Hill Mine

wages and the ideals of unionism – if the union was broken the effect of that would be counted in dead and crippled miners. Gun battles were fought, mills were dynamited, peopled died on both sides of this class war. Miners took possession of a number of mines, including Bunker Hill. Federal troops were brought in on the side of the mine owners on July 14th. Hundreds of miners were imprisoned in bull pens without formal charges or trials.

Though the mine owners had their scabs and an overwhelming armed force, they lacked one thing – real miners. The scabs were nothing more than incompetent class traitors, and in time they drifted away from the hard work of the mines. The owners were then forced to bring back the union miners and the union was reestablished in all the mines.

The Coeur d'Alene struggle, along with other struggles of western miners, showed the need for stronger organization. At a convention in Butte of independent miners' unions a new federation was created on May 15, 1892 – the Western Federation of Miners. The WFM fought a number of bitter miners strikes in the next few years, including in the Coeur d'Alene District in 1899. This strike turned out to be as bloody as the last one. There was an intense reign of terror against the miners and their families. Idaho governor Frank Steunenberg, who had been elected with WFM support the year before, called in troops to put down the strike. Once again hundreds of miners were placed in bullpens, some for over a year. Several miners were sent to the federal prison at Leavenworth, Kansas. Out of anger several hundred union miners seized a train in the town of Burke, loaded it with dynamite, and aimed it at the Bunker Hill mill and remodeled its decor into a smoldering scrap heap of twisted metal and splintered wood.

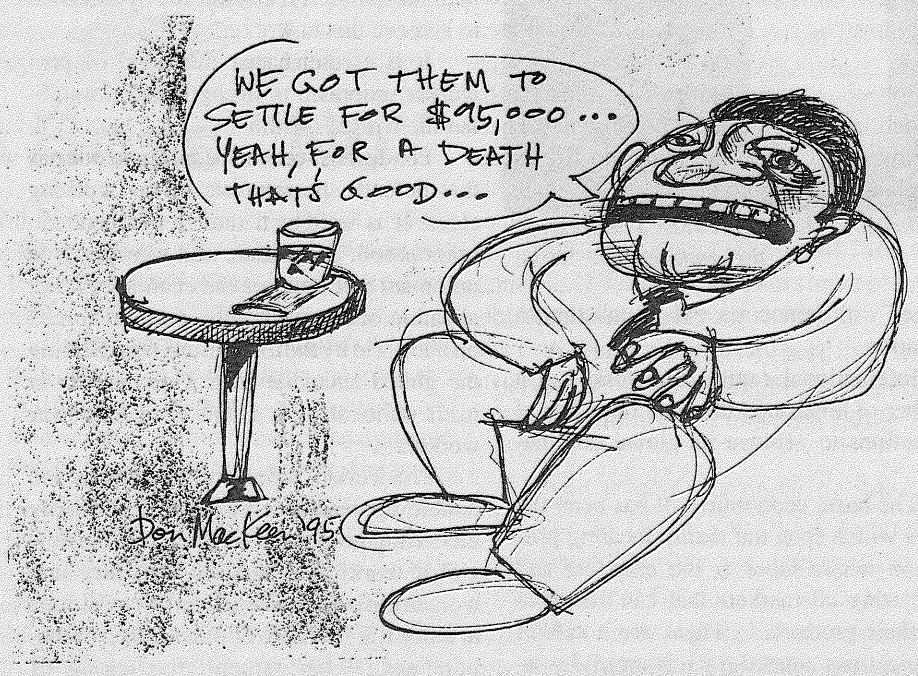
A few years later, in 1905, Steunenberg was killed by a bomb. A petty criminal named Harry Orchard, who has been a paid spy for the Mine Owners' Association, confessed to the killing. Though it later came out that he had his own economic reasons for the bombing, he said he was hired by three WFM leaders – Big Bill Haywood, George Pettibone, and Charles Moyer. All three were illegally kidnapped to Idaho. Haywood was the first to go on trial. After a very dramatic trial he was found not guilty.

We cannot find any justice or ethical values from any bosses, politicians, judges or so-called labor leaders... We can only find such things among ourselves. And we are the only ones who can put an end to this historical human tragedy called capitalism...

Later Pettibone was acquitted and then the charges were dropped against Moyer.

It did not take the WFM long to realize that they needed to be a part of a labor federation beyond their industry, so they joined the American Federation of Labor in 1896. The AFL turned out not to be what they were looking for, and they withdrew from it the following year. The AFL was biased against any worker who was not what they viewed as a "skilled" worker. Their views on workers and their trade union structure was based on the old craft guild system which divided workers on the job and throughout industry. Also, the AFL lacked worker solidarity and gave the WFM no support in their strikes. What the WFM wanted was a federation of industrial unions, and the year after discarding the AFL as a waste of time they created the Western Labor Union. Seeing that their organization had to extend further than just the west, they changed its name in 1903 to the American Labor Union.

Still this was not enough – the WFM and other unions wanted a labor organization that was not just a federation of affiliates, but an industrial organization that would organize the working class to its greatest possible extent, for they had learned that the labor struggle was not a battle with individual bosses, but rather a class conflict between the employing class and the working class. In 1905 a congress was held to form a new revolutionary organization of industrial unions. This new organization was the Industrial Workers of the World.



The IWW was the logical next step in the workers' struggle. An organization built out of the experiences of the working class, with the purpose of doing away with the exploitation of the working class by using the two greatest weapons the working class has. First, the power of production, and second, universal solidarity. And with these two weapons the IWW sought to take industrial control away from the parasites and place it in the hands of those who do the useful work in society, the workers.

These ideas were seen as a danger to not only the employing class, but also to those who sought the power of the working class for their own selfish reasons. The so-called labor politicians that wanted working people to delegate their power to them with the unkept promise that they would act in their interest, and the union "piecard" leaders who feared worker control would mean the loss of their jobs. Both of these types of scoundrels did all they could to destroy the IWW. After three years the treacherous piecard Charles Moyer was able to withdraw the WFM from the IWW. Though the IWW was able to go on and produce a massive radical labor struggle, the fact that the IWW did not become what it could have been was a direct result of sell-out labor "leaders." Maybe one day working folks will learn who their true enemies are (all of them) and rebuild the IWW, the dream of such a thing happening it still alive today.

In 1916 the WFM changed its name to the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers – or the Mine, Mill Workers, as they were called. In the depression years there was considerable growth in the Mine, Mill Workers and in 1936 they were one of the eight founding unions of the Congress of Industrial Organizations. After the second world war, Mine, Mill fell victim to the post-war, anti-labor and anti-communist hysteria. Like a number of other unions (including the IWW), they resisted the Taft-Hartley Act. They found themselves labeled subversive by the Subversive Activities Control Board. A number of their leaders were indicted, but they were cleared by the US Supreme Court in 1956. Later, 14 more Mine, Mill Workers were indicted for conspiracy and were finally cleared again by the Supreme Court in 1968. Throughout the '50s and early '60s numerous Mine, Mill members found themselves arrested on state charges, including, in 1959, union vice-president Asbury Howard, who was jailed, beaten and sentenced to the chain gang for the crime of urging Blacks to register to vote in Alabama.

The opportunistic, reactionary piecards in the CIO saw their chance to drive out more radical elements in the post-war madness. On Feb. 15 1950, the Mine, Mill Workers were expelled from the CIO along with the Fur & Leather Workers Union, the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America and the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union.

The CIO then handed all Mine, Mill Workers' jurisdiction over to the United Steel Workers. The Steel Workers had been violently raiding Mine, Mill Workers since the moment they resisted Taft-Hartley. Even with all this going on, Mine, Mill was able to pull off some of the largest post-war strikes in the country. But after a while they were worn down by the attacks on them. On Jan. 16, 1967, the United Steel Workers took over the Mine, Mill Workers, and the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter workers was no more, except for one local in Sudbury, Canada. So that is how I came to hold a card in the United Steel Workers a few years later at Bunker Hill.

Poisoning the Children

This story does not end here, for a year after I worked at Bunker Hill a fire badly damaged the baghouse, where smelter emissions were filtered through cloth bags before being released into the air. Rather than close down the smelter and repair the damage, the jackasses that ran the smelter bypassed the baghouse and the built-up lead rained down upon the surrounding towns. The families, and most tragically the children, were poisoned with lead.

The family of miner Bill Yoss, who had worked underground for 25 years at Bunker Hill, was tested by doctors from the Center for Disease Control. His daughter, Arlene, was found to have more than four times the threshold then considered dangerous. The lead had settled in her bones and her legs grew twisted. Only hot soaking baths would ease her continuous pain. Her mother was told, after the tests on Arlene and her two other children, that she had "three walking dead babies." In 1975 Bill Yoss went to see an attorney in Spokane to see what could be done. While he was away he was fired. The Yoss family filed suit against Bunker Hill. The information gathered for the suit told a story of corporate crime almost beyond comparison. Bunker Hill settled with the Yoss family and the families of 35 other children in 1981. All records and information gathered was sealed by the court, and it was not until 1990 that the records and the full story of the poisoning of the people of Silver Valley became known.

Within the unsealed documents was found a two-page memo in which the vice president of Gulf Resources and Chemical Corp. (the company that owned Bunker Hill at that time) calculated estimated on how much Gulf would have to pay if it continued to expose children to lead emissions rather than shut down the smelter and repair the baghouse. His estimate came to $6 to $7 million for poisoning 500 children. He also examined the possibility of discrediting the doctors who warned of the dangers of lead poisoning. At the time, prices for lead ore were high, so Gulf decided that the profits were far greater than the "costs" of poisoning children. That year Gulf raked in $25.9 million in profits from the smelter. Some of the costs include:

1) The lead pollution was so bad that the State of Idaho was measuring it by tons per square mile. A reading in Kellogg showed in excess of 30 tons of lead per square mile in the year after the fire. Smelterville was put at 25 tons per square mile. "I had pictures I took at 2 pm," Bill Yoss said. "It was so dark you had to have your headlights on." The residents of these communities were exposed to mega-doses of lead greater than any other community anywhere else in the world throughout history.

2) The hazardous threshold of lead back then was 1,000 parts per million. Sediments along the riverbank were measured at 40,000 to 50,000 parts per million. And by 1987, then they were finally measured, 75 percent of the yards in Kellogg and 81 percent of the yards in Smelterville exceeded safe levels.

3) Over 5,000 people have been exposed to the lead fallout. In 1974 the Centers for Disease Control tested children for blood lead levels and found that all the children living in Smelterville had unsafe levels, as did 99 percent of children in Kellogg and 93 percent of children in Pinehurst. This came to nearly 600 children known to have been poisoned by corporate greed at that time that was documented by the government. No one knows how many other children in the area were poisoned, The government left it at that and did nothing until 1980, six years later, when they found that 75 percent of the pre-school children were poisoned. No follow-up studies were done to determine the long-lasting health effects on the children and no testing was done on the adults.

Through a conspiracy by the federal government, the state of Idaho, the courts and Gulf, the people of the area did not know about how badly they had been poisoned until 16 years later. The only action that was taken was by the Public Health Service which went into the schools and would put on puppet shows to teach children how to play (among the effects of lead poisoning is reduced mental ability).

In 1985 Bunker Hill became the second largest Superfund site in the country, covering an area of 21 square miles. The following is but a small sampling of what was found at the site:

1) Trees, grass and other vegetation would not grow in much of the area because of toxic metals in the soil and high soil acidity caused by sulfur dioxide emissions.

2) The smelter contains at least 36,500

continued on page 10

Organize Against the Bosses' Global Offensive

ern slavery. The "Free Trade Zones" which have been installed all over Asia, for example, create regions where the multi-nationals enjoy complete control. In Sri Lanka alone, more than 400,000 people work in these zones. The companies dictate the whole conditions of work and life there, and do not allow unions. If governments or unions try to enforce some minimal standards, the companies just move to the next country. In this context privatization (sometimes masquerading under friendlier terms, such as "peoplisation" in Sri Lanka) means nothing but to subdue the entire economy under the rule of international capital.

Delegates discussed their common problems in working groups, and developed plans for better cooperation in their regions. Particular emphasis was given to the need for workers' education and organizing women workers. Participants decided to celebrate May Day as an action day against the IMF and World Bank, and to push for stronger international cooperation.

There were inevitably some political struggles, particularly over the conference declaration. Many delegates did not accept a demand for union independence from political parties, although a compromise was ultimately worked out. There was no reformism at all, even from the more mainstream delegations. In response to the strong interest in syndicalism, the AIT and SAC delegations co-hosted a late-night discussion which drew delegates from Hong Kong, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Taiwan.



photo: Ulf Andersson, *Syndikalisten*

Christina Dagberger (SAC) addressing the conference in Nepal

The Kathmandu Declaration

In Asia Pacific and the rest of the world, workers are killed every day in the process of production as capitalists reap mega-profits from their new world order, a new world order not designed for the workers and peasants of the world, but designed to ensure the growth in wealth and power of those who own and manage capital, a global financial elite.

And it is not just through industrial accidents that workers suffer; millions of workers around the world die a slow death through inadequate wages, inadequate working conditions, unemployment and lack of job security.

Capitalism has organized itself regionally and globally, rather than on a nation state basis, where capital has very few fetters or controls over its activities.

We meet at a crucial time for the international working class, one of the most critical times since the rise of capitalism and industrialization.

Throughout the world labor laws and worker rights protections are being eroded or swept away. Unions have been forced into fighting a defensive battle to keep the conditions that they have already achieved.

This dramatic shift in global power... is the result of the continuing development and maturity of capitalism on a global scale. It is the result of the development of a global hegemony of "new right" and "free market" ideology of capitalism within the ruling classes, government officials... and sadly within parts of the workers and trade union movement itself.

It is the result of the 40-year multi-billion dollar "cold war" led by the United States against any nation, government, people or class that stood up for its right to independence, self-determination or non-capitalist economic development.

And it is also the result of the mistakes, errors bureaucratic and anti-democratic trends within the workers movement itself, which has led many workers (with the help of capitalist propaganda) to equate the "free market" with democracy and capitalism with liberation.

International capital has worked at a number of levels and through a number of institutions to achieve its global domination.

The basic economic unit has been the TNCs which span the world, locating production where labor is the cheapest and penetrating all markets that can afford to buy their products.... There are a raft of organizations created (or subverted) by international capital to see that their interests are protected and promoted... The IMF and World Bank, created 50 years ago, now serve to dictate policies that are in the interests of the global elite to the indebted developing countries of the world, countries indebted in the first place because of policies pursued by the imperialist and colonial powers and their servants in the form of local elites. The Structural Adjustment Policies (SAPs) of the IMF-World Bank and their disastrous effects on the workers and other basic masses of our countries are well documents.

Not content with the power of these two financial institutions, the global elite has now created a third pillar in the form of the World Trade Organization... Under the guise of "free trade," the GATT/WTO seeks to reduce still further the role of nation states in determining their own economic and trading policies, thus giving the TNCs and international financial institutions even greater power...

If the working class is to survive against this international domination of capital, then it must have the organizational strength through broad-based unity action and international solidarity, and the clarity of vision to achieve this task.

It is essential that the trend of pro-worker unionism is strengthened throughout the world.

Pro-worker unionism means unionism that defends the interests of the working class. It is unionism that is independent, mass based, democratic and militant. It is unionism that opposes the economic liberalization and privatization policies forced on the world by the institutions representing the global financial elite. Unionism is in itself political as it's aim is to empower workers.

Pro-worker unionism recognizes the double oppression of women, the rapidly increasing proportion of women in the new global workforce, and the difficulty that women have in gaining leadership positions in unions. It strives to eliminate discrimination, sexual harassment, trafficking of women, and other anti-women aspects of society.

Pro-worker unionism organizes for the abolition of child and bonded labor. It must also be involved in organizing the informal or un-organized sector which consist of more than 90 percent of the workforce in some countries.

Although we live in a time when the working class and the union movement has suffered setbacks, we also see evidence of unions and working-class organizations able to stand up to the power of the capitalists and the ruling elites.

We address our declaration to workers and their organizations throughout the world. We call on the international trade union organizations to unite around a program of defending the interests of the international working class against the anti-worker policies imposed by the IMF-World Bank, the GATT/WTO, the G7, OECD and the host of regional and supra-regional trading blocks.

We commit ourselves to work tirelessly to strengthen pro-worker unionism in our own organizations, to seek the broadest possible unity with other unions, working-class and people's organizations to defend and extend the interests of workers throughout the world, and to oppose the anti-worker, anti-people policies promoted by the global elite.

On the principle of worker internationalism we commit ourselves to work together across national boundaries, across religious, cultural and ethnic divides, and equally as women and men.

We commit ourselves to maintaining an ongoing network of unions committed to pro-worker unionism and to actively oppose the economic liberalization and privatization policies...

In Kathmandu we have celebrated the electoral victories of the Nepali left against all international odds. We have also heard from each other of the gains that workers and their organizations are having throughout the world. There are communities, social organizations, trade unions and other people's organizations developing the struggle, looking for and creating alternatives for the emancipation of the working class, the liberation of all people, and the development of a society that lives in harmony with the planet.

Workers and all oppressed people of the world unite!

We do have a world to win!

13 December 1994

(Based on a report from the FAU-AIT (Free Workers Union of Germany) International Secretariat; GEOFONT has been charged with coordinating the emerging network. They can be reached at P.O. Box 160 Patan, Lalitpur Nepal.)

Colombia: Unity Against Social Pact Lies

Eight months after Ernesto Samper took the presidency, the neoliberal measures imposed by his predecessor, César Gaviria, are consolidating day by day.

The remaining state enterprises remain targets for privatization. Labor and social security "reforms" are damaging workers' conditions. The offensive against the labor movement is still marching on.

Some bureaucrats, leaders of the CTC (Confederation of Colombian Workers) union and a sector of the CUT (Unitary Workers Central) signed the so-called Social Agreement governing wages, prices and productivity. It implies lower incomes for 4 million people who work under the minimum wage. The Social Agreement overrides union contracts, and reduces government workers' income once again.

The price control is only bullshit. In just two months, the price rises were about a third of the projection for the entire year. The "productivity" accord means more exploitation for the wage slaves and individual labor relations (no unions allowed).

For the popular barrios people, the future means more difficulties because of "free market kindness." Campesinos who produce food are ruined by "free" competition with industrialized countries.

Coffee and bananas are manipulated by foreign commerce monopolies. Natural resources are given to multinational corporations by association contracts under which the Colombian State pays the expenses while foreign corporations take away utilities.

There are two tendencies in the labor movement in Colombia. One is the conciliatory position of the union bureaucrats. The other is the fight against the neoliberal government...

In addition, violence and state terrorism, the "disappearances," the anonymous justice, and the illegalization of social protest are general.

Do you know the news about campesinos' emigration escaping from the dirty war? Do you know about the crimes committed by fascist death squads? Do you realize that the government plan to create Agrarian Security Cooperatives means the legalization of fascist vigilantes? Do you know about the reactivation of paramilitary forces with the help of the army?

But the Colombian labor movement still isn't annihilated. The second Social Organizations Meeting held in Bogotá March 18 was a unity action for peace, against neoliberalism and against Social Agreement lies. 110 organizations from throughout the country were there.

The meeting was initiated by the general secretary of the CUT, Luis Eduardo Garzón. He emphasized the direct actions organized daily by workers in Colombia. From the workers at the factories, to the campesinos, women and students' protests — all are signs of a people which has grown tired of wild capitalist oppression.

The meeting was a trial against the president's Social Agreement program. Speakers and participants denounced the way the government is sacrificing workers and communities only for the benefit of capital. The meeting agreed on an 8-point action plan to respond to the neoliberal offensive.

—David Moreno, RASH, Bogotá

McLibel Enters Labor Stage...

Within 24 hours an agreement was signed with the CGT. A few days later McDonald's workers in Ulis walked out. In Nantes, west France, McDonald's workers prepared a week of action. And the syndicalist CNT is organizing at McDonalds in Grenoble.

The McLibel defense has drawn support from British unions. The Kent UNISON branch passed a resolution recognizing "the poor working conditions at McDonald's and their hostility to Trade Unionism, and support[ing]: the right of their staff to organize and take on industrial action; protests against the company's attempts to suppress criticism, in particular the use of libel laws as censorship, and resolves to back the McLibel Support Campaign..." A McDonald's worker's support group was set up by the Hackney Trade Union Support Group at 16a Bradbury Street, London N16. The U.S. McLibel Support Campaign is at PO Box 62, Craftsbury VT 05826-0062

Mexican Workers Celebrate May Day

Today, for the first time in many decades, independent unions and social movements joined together for one unified march on International Workers' Day. Thousands upon thousands of marches filled the now-famous route from the Angel de la Indpendencia to the Zocalo, with other groups entering the Zocalo from different points in the city.

The major union presence at the march were workers from the now defunct Ruta-100 firm and their still-kicking militant union, Sutaur. Industrial unions had small contingents, including the telefonistas and electricistas, compared to the service sector workers from the UNAM and other educational institutions.

However, more than just a traditional display of workers and their unions, this Mayday included all of the groups that have frequented the Chiapas protests, students, alianza civica, the CND, the PRD, barrio organizations, etc... In fact, most of these groups concentrated their slogans on the situation in Chiapas, shouting a few insults at the government and President and voicing support for the Ruta-100 workers.



One of the newest contigents to appear was a sizable number of Barzonistas, those who have refused to pay soaring interest rates on their credit-card and other debts. Although the Barzonistsas include small business owners, professionals, and anyone who declares a moratorium on their debts, the group who showed up at the march seemed to be mainly agricultural producers, some even riding their horses.

The scene at the Zocalo was slightly chaotic as the speakers were hard to see or hear. The festivities continued nonetheless. At one point a few people began throwing tomatoes at the Palacio Nacional and then attempted to set the main wooden door on fire. An amusing scene ensued where functionaries from the national palace threw water down from above the door attempting to quench the fire from below. Meanwhile other protestors threw rocks and glass bottles at the building breaking a few windows. Riot police appeared from behind the building to confront the unruly crowd, but they too were attacked as protestors began to lob rocks at them. The police were apparently prepared to go on the offensive when they suddenly withdrew.

Besides the scene at the National Palace, which involved a handful of people, the rest of the march remained fairly tranquil. Anarchist youth weaved throughout the parade in organized bands and managed to spray-paint, as usual, every bank and fast-food restaurant on the route. A few hours after the march had passed all of this graffiti was washed off of the windows or painted over. All in all it was a rather festive May Day in Mexico City, in spite of the grim economic realities that face the country. If this was International Workers' day, then the definition of worker in Mexico City has certainly been expanded from its nineteenth-century meaning.

Arise All Victims of Oppression

—Elliott Young

Bus Drivers Union Smashed

The Mexican government is trying to smash Sutaur-100 (Sindicato Unico de Trabajadores de Autotransportes Urbanos de Pasajeros Ruta-100 – Union of Urban Passenger Transportation R-100), the union of workers at the Ruta 100 government-owned bus company in Mexico City. Ruta 100 mainly served poor shanty towns on the outskirts of Mexico City.

The government incurred in several irregularities to declare the firm bankrupt April 8. It also arrested six union leaders (setting bail at $10 million), apparently in retaliation for Sutaur-100's support of the EZLN. The union's bank accounts were also frozen.

Although the government denies any political motivation, it has put the Ruta-100 buses back on the street, providing free transportation in an effort to undermine support for the union. Police and soldiers are guarding the buses to protect the scabs and the vehicles.

Sit-Down Strike at RCA

RCA-Thomson workers in Ciudad Juarez's maquiladora manufacturing center (across the border from El Paso, Texas), won a sit-down strike February 8th, winning a 20% wage increase, a no-reprisals pledge, restoration of paid vacations, and new elections to the "union" that has "represented" them for years by agreeing to whatever the bosses demanded. On March 8th, a rank-and-file slate swept the elections, throwing the bureaucrats out of office.

The steep devaluation of the Mexican peso and ongoing economic crisis has devastated workers' buying power. Thousands of workers have staged wildcat strikes in six Juarez maquiladoras thus far this year; five other plants have granted substantial pay hikes to head off strike action.

The RCA-Thomson struggle began as a wildcat strike by 5,600 workers, sparked when word spread that management was cutting workers' paid vacations in half (from two weeks to one). The strikers' independent Workers' Coalition also demanded a 30% pay hike, removal of corrupt union officials, and reinstatement of the vacation week. RCA refused to negotiate. When other RCA plants began to face parts shortages because of the strike, management announced they would reopen the plant Feb. 7 and pay workers who reported to work for the days they were on strike. But after workers entered the plant, 90 percent refused to work until their grievances were settled. Management resumed negotiations within the hour, and quickly agreed to most of the workers' demands.

Cops Attack Chiapas Demo

got out of his car and broke into the middle of the tiny scuffle. The near-violent confrontation was dissipated... only to be followed by another one, this time with our supposed "saviors."

We resumed marching on our last leg (two blocks) of the trip, once again taking to the streets, but only one lane of traffic this time. A city police car appeared and megaphoned us to get off the street. Most of us did, but two moved too slowly for the police...

Now is when my own observations were blurred. Seeing our last two folks slowly move off the street (at first, I wasn't sure they were going to), I figured things were cool and turned back around to finish the march. Suddenly, there was shouting – I turned around. One of our people started running toward me, with three cops on his tail. Those of us in the lead clumped together, confused as to what was happening. Our person got caught. The three cops jumped on him something bad. He began to scream. Half of our people tried to find a camera (fortunately, one person had brought one and she was covertly snapping away). The other half began scolding the cops for their obvious brutality.

Within minutes, we were surrounded by ten Salt Lake City police cars (yes, I counted), and there was a paddy wagon, too, and a helicopter circling overhead.

Another of our people tried to go after our arrested friend. One cop went completely berserk (this is *not* a biased depiction). There were now guns all over (and a six-year-old girl standing right next to me).

Throwing a karate offensive position, the berserked policeman (he was visibly in a frenzy) literally threatened to kill anyone who got near. One of our people got near. He was pepper-sprayed. More cops arrived. Our group was clumped too close together. Everyone was going crazy, including the police. (The dozen or so police cars were now *completely* blocking the intersection where our confrontation was taking place – who's blocking traffic?)

It was chaos. Someone spat on the grass. He was threatened with arrest. He spat again, and they went after him. Pain compliance was applied to our arrested friends. This only further incensed our group, and some people charged the police to help protect our two friends.

Of those who charged the police, two more were arrested. More pain compliance. When our arrested friends weren't screaming for their lives, they continued to shout their support for the Zapatistas. By now, there were far more cops than us. Another person was arrested...

I was too dazed to move. I looked in horror as two of my friends were thrown to the ground, kicked repeatedly in the back, and handcuffed. One person snapped a few more photos.

The berserked cop approached me. He yelled at me to move. Unlike most of the others in my group, I did not respond with anger or provocation. In fact, I didn't hear him, because I was spellbound by what the cops were doing to my friends. The berserked cop yelled in my face once again, and brought me back to my senses. I stared into his cold grey eyes. He thought I was going to resist like the ones that had been arrested. I asked, "Are my friends going to be all right?"

"YES! They are all right! MOVE!"

I turned slowly and reluctantly away as my friends were driven off in white and blue cars. When I joined the others in my group once again in front of the Mexican Consulate, I slowly put down the sign I had carried throughout the rally and march. It read:

"WE ALL LIVE IN CHIAPAS."

John Tan; Ogden, Utah

Mayday in Ottawa

MayDay was reborn in Ottawa as a group of youths strung up a banner in the park on Sunday, April 30, 1995. A generator and sound system was set up around the statue of a military figure, lamp posts were wound with red-and-black ribbons, and tables were strung along the paths under the budding Maple trees.

It was cool, but the sun came through a few times. Wobbly musicians started the entertainment with some traditional and modern songs of resistance. Then they backed up Spider Merritt on "The Banks Are Made of Marble" and other tunes.

IW newspapers sold so well that we donated $10 to Food Not Bombs, who set up bread and soup for this celebration on top of serving downtown at their regular time.

Other groups with literature included Coalition Against the Arms Trade, Lesbian Avengers, the East Timor support group, animal rights activists, and the feminist newspaper *Hysteriae*.

3 punk rock bands blasted the neighborhood for a few hours. A multi-ethnic hand drum trio with African songs, and a jazz band followed.

The crowd stayed around 75-100 with people wandering in from the street and wandering off again, maybe 1,000 in all. There were activities for children, and lots of teenagers playing with hula hoops.

Cleveland Firm Fires Unionists

Industrias Kirkwood in Mexico City (a US-owned auto parts company) fired six union leaders for organizing a protest to demand repair of ramchackle bathrooms, an end to fondling of women workers by guards during searches as they leave the plant, an end to sexual harassment of women workers by the production manager; no more speed-up; regular shift schedules; and consultations with the union before firings.

Kirkwood's 250 workers in Mexico City want to be represented by STIMAHCS, a metalworkers union affiliated with the the Authentic Labor Front (FAT), an independent federation. Four members of the democratically elected shop committee were fired when they refused to voluntarily resign and accept severance pay. Two others were fired several days later, after which the company hired 30 members of one of the official unions to provoke and intimidate workers.

Please call Kirkwood Industries President and CEO Richard W. Klym at 216-267-6200. Fax him at 216-362-3804, or send letters to him at: 4855 W. 130th St., Cleveland, OH 44135. Demand that Kirkwood: Reinstate the six fired workers, Recognize the STIMAHCS union, Make no more backdoor deals with the corrupt COCEM or CTM unions (the government controlled ones).

If possible, please fax copies to the Mexican plant Director Emilio Grandio at 011-525-567-0358 and to the Authentic Labor Front (FAT) at 011-525-556-9316 or to Robin Alexander (UE) at 412-471-8999 and she will forward them to Mexico.

Contributions to help support some of the fired workers as organizers can be sent to the UE-FAT Solidarity Fund at: 2400 Oliver Building, 535 Smithfield St., Pittsburgh, PA 15222.

May Day in Chicago...

item on May Day.) Two non-members requested information on joining, and we have been asked to join the local chapter of the 50 Years coalition, which is working to defund the IMF and World Bank.

Elsewhere, an estimated 1,000 workers joined a May Day demonstration in downtown Madison largely organized by the IWW. We hope to have a report on this and other Wobbly May Day actions next issue.

June 25th March & Rally Support Decatur Workers

Come show your solidarity with: UPIU Local 7837 (at A.E. Staley) – 2 yrs. locked out; UAW Local 751 (at Caterpillar) – 1 yr. on strike (2nd strike); URW Local 713 (at Bridgestone/Firestone) – 1 yr. on strike

Sunday, June 25, 1995, in Decatur, Illinois. Assembly at 11 am in respective union halls, Rally at Civic Center 1 P.M.

Also: War Zone Labor Conference June 24th, 8 am - 3 pm. For information call (217)876-7006

Bunker Hill Legacy...

tons of toxic heavy metals including lead, zinc, cadmium, mercury, cobaly, copper, beryllium, arsenic, asbestos, antimony, selenium and PCBs. If all the buildings were to be demolished the hazardous debris from that alone would fill 22,500 dump trucks.

3) The Central Impoundment Area, a level dike of smelter waste piled over 70 feet high and extending for a mile, contains 20 million tons of highly toxic mine tailings. When the wind blows, "fugitive dust" blows into the surrounding towns. Until recently, the town of Kellogg, not knowing of the toxins in the waste, would crush slag off these piles and spread it on icy streets.

4) The yards, playground, schools and even the rugs inside of homes were found to contain lead and other toxic material.

5) The South Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River and many streams were found to be repositories for lead, cadmium and zinc. Fish that found their way into these waters were killed. An estimated 72 million tons of mine tailing remain in these waters, and an estimated ton of heavy metals are washed down the river every day. The EPA says that cleaning up this mess in these waterways is beyond the Superfund capabilities.

6) The problem is yet to end, for heavy metals are still coming out of the portals of the mines.

Who pays for this clean-up, and what happened to the corporate criminals? Keeping the crime a secret allowed Gulf to sell Bunker Hill and take their assets to New Zealand where they cannot be touched. They then filed for bankruptcy in the US. This gets them out of paying for the clean-up or other law suits by poisoned people, and leaves Bunker Hill workers without their pensions and medical benefits. The new owners were able to profit from EPA's slow action and ran the mine for a while; they then closed it down and sold off contaminated equipment and rail ties. They then diversified their assets to the point that there was no company left. The answer to the question of who will pay to clean up this mess is the tax payers.

This story comes to an end where the history of Bunker Hill began, with the Coeur d'Alene Indian Nation. They are suing eight mining companies, the Union Pacific Railroad and the state of Idaho to force a clean-up of the waterways that lie upon the land that they were left with. The Coeur d'Alene land is downstream from this dreadful mess. This is the first such suit by a Native Nation.

A new mine owners association has recently "fixed" the blame for the closing of Bunker Hill on "environmental extremists, the Coeur d'Alene Indians, and disgruntled workers who exaggerated the harmful effects of (toxic) materials from mining." And to show just how sick some people can get, there are those who want to create a Bunker Hill National Park to honor Bunker Hill's great history.

The lessons to be learned from Bunker Hill are many, a book could be written on that alone. But the heart of the matter is very simple – we, the workers, the oppressed and exploited people, cannot find any justice or ethical values from any bosses, politicians, judges or so-called labor leaders. We can only find such things among ourselves. And we, organized as a great power, are the only ones who can put an end to this historical human tragedy called capitalism. Our power should be delegated to no one, for we can trust no one but ourselves.

After researching this article I pulled out my old Steel Workers card and looked at it. It seemed not a thing of pride and honor, but a thing of shame – a card of union betrayal. I then burned it in honor of the Coeur d'Alene Nation, in honor of the miner's struggles, in honor of the 91 miners who died down in the Sunshine Mine, in honor of the poisoned children, and in honor of Mother Earth.

— Arthur J. Miller

Television and Social Control

Test Card F: television, mythinformation and social control. AK Press, 1994 (£4.35 in UK: AK Press, 22 Lutton Place, Edinburgh EH8 9PE, Scotland; $8 in US: AK Press, POB 40682, San Francisco CA 94140-0682), 80 pp., illustrated.

If you're like me, you wonder a lot about how it is that we seem to be collectively transforming ourselves from those lovable nattering nabobs of negativism into nations of nitwits and dittoheads. After trading our hours for a handful of dimes, most of us like to go home, kick back, relax and watch some TV. Television has become the drug of choice among the silent majority, although most do not see viewing the vidiscreen as an addiction. Perhaps the silence of the working class and its perceived acceptance of the dominant paradigm have a lot to do with the fact that most of their political, moral and ethical convictions are transmitted to them along with their culture via commodified, televised imagery. At least, that seems to be the underlying theme of *Test Card F: Television, Mythinformation and Social Control.*

"How can TV silence me?," you ask. "After all, I control it with my Captain Picard like hand-held decoder and channel-changing remote, right?"

Right. A judicious use of the mute button is in your interest; but look around you. Observe how it is that the electric eye peering out of that rotten tube stays on for so many hours of your waking free time and that of your friends, plus your kids'. Try turning it off for extended periods and experience the anxiety of withdrawal; that nervous anticipation surrounded by a quiet, unflickered environment. Think about it. If the TV is doing most of the talking in your living room, bedroom, etc., then you probably aren't too close to planning "the historic mission of the working class" or really anything much of importance at all.

As the authors (who choose to remain anonymous) of *Test Card F* point out, TV is owned to sell and like addictive drugs in general, this soma of our brave new world has a high price, namely our heads. It is market share which drives the owners of the television programs to put their trash in your living spaces; for market share largely determines the price of the airtime they sell to advertisers. Fear of losing this market share leads to an homogenization of programming. The path struck out by capitalist media competition leads directly to the flatlands of mediocrity. "The pressure to maximize audiences and revenue results in the avoidance of anything that might be contentious. Production and commission is based instead on the familiar formats of what has previously successfully kept us watching. Getting the bodies sat in front of the box for as long as possible is what counts: QUALITY of attention is of little importance."

The immediacy of TV, its fast paced, fire like nature, keep us glued like moths to the screen. Our brains on television put us, for all intents and purposes, in a virtual land of the living dead. It's not just the commodification of the electric spectacle which cheapens our consciousness; the phenomenon of mental numbing appears to be deeply embedded in the technology itself.

"The 'Mulholland' experiment in the early 70's wired ten kids to electroencephalograph (EEG) machines (which measure brain wave activity) and sat them down in front of their chosen favourite programmes. He expected to see plenty of fast beta waves, which would indicate that they were actively responding to something (as is produced when reading or during conservation); instead all he could find were the slower alpha waves of the kind found when a person is in a coma or put in a trance where the subject is not interacting with the outside world at all."

More than providing us with an analysis which links the dumbing down of the working class and its children by these electronic drug dealers, *Test Card F* also hammers away at the notion, popular among a semi-conscious left, that if it can somehow manipulate its collective mug in front of the TV camera, it'll be able to sway an otherwise torpid proletariat to vigorous anti-capitalist activity. Nothing could be further from the truth, according to *Test Card F*'s authors. When was the last time you seized the moment after watching something on TV, short of breaking out your credit card to help the Mobil Corporation sponsor "Masterpiece Theatre" on the so-called Public Broadcasting System? To attempt to create a show for the televendors is to fall into the trap of becoming mere court jesters of capital as opposed to its grave diggers. Much of the left wastes its time mired in schemes from community access television, to parade monitoring at anti-war marches in vain attempts to gain respectability and their own "market share." In reality, they become more fertilizer for the latest spin on the opiate of the people.

Instead of being concerned about how to get on television and then going home to watch to see whether one has made the 11 o'clock newscasts, the authors suggest that it would be more effective to engage in the class struggle any which way you can without regard to how or even whether it will play in the televised images being beamed to the comatose of Peoria.

As the authors point out, "All news coverage is encoded to enforce the myth that we live in a society where the bond that unites the worker and the boss is an (sic) national economic interest, stronger than the divide between labour and capital." Thus, the working class is reduced to the wanking class in front of the boob-tube.

Most of what anybody sees on TV is soon forgotten anyway; in fact, practically as soon as the next image is televised for consumption. It's form over content here, image over reality. The result of spending so much of our time in TV's embrace is not a persistence of memory; but rather a vacant stare and at "best" the active repetition of political choices historically proven to have been mistakes – e.g., voting for the major parties, doing nothing, cynically doing nothing and so forth and so on.

Test Card F has no copyright, an interesting political comment in itself. It comes out of the Institute of Social Disengineering at 21 Cave St., Oxford, in the UK. The Institute welcomes outside agitators.

Book Review

Nestle Workers Solidarity

Nestle, which is the target of a boycott campaign over its infant formula marketing practices, plans to shut down its chocolate plant in Norwish, UK, even though the plant is highly profitable. Nestle executives hope to increase profitability by consolidating production at three other British plants.

The Solidarity Federation is encouraging British Nestle workers to refuse to take on the Norwich work, move any machinery, install it or work it, etc. Letters of support can be sent to: Norwich Solidarity Federation - IWA, PO Box 73, Norwich NR3 1QD, Britain. Letters of protest to: Helmut O. Maucher, Nestle Ltd., Ave. Nestle 55, CH-1800, Vevey, Switzerland.

Teaching Managers "No"...

By the way, the number of workers volunteering on Sunday, April 9th, reached an all-time high, with nearly everyone reporting for work. Damn! But there has been no Sunday work since then, and last week some workers even got Saturday off.

Mitch Neher, X341844

Labor Online Conference

July 1, San Francisco. Workshops on using computers for research, networking, outreach, education. To register: LaborNet, 18 DeBoom Street, San Francisco CA 94107 415/442-0220 labornet@labornet.org

New Union Guide to Preventing Strain Injuries

Work-related strain injuries are both real and preventable, notes a book just out from the International Federation of Chemical, Energy and General Workers' Unions (ICEF).

Modern, repetitive jobs are disabling more and more workers. This "occupational overuse syndrome" is fast becoming recognised as one of *the* workplace diseases of the 1990s. *Breaking Point,* a new book co-published by the ICEF and Pluto Press, should help tackle the root causes of the problem. Written and illustrated for the ICEF by Annie Rice, *Breaking Point* is a handy 56-page practical guide. It includes a trade union action strategy and a model health questionnaire and checklist.

Occupational overuse injuries happen everywhere. They affect people in such diverse jobs as clerical work, data processing, assembly line work, mining and packaging. Or, for that matter, in any physical task that has become segmented, repetitious, specialised or concentrated.

Today, the disease goes by many different names – Occupational Overuse Syndrome, Repetitive Strain Injury, Cumulative Trauma Disorder, Work-Related Upper Limb Disorder... But whatever it is called, the resulting pain and fatigue can build up into a crippling, incurable disability. All too often, the real cause – the workplace – is not recognised by those treating the symptoms.

Overuse syndrome in workers has, rather cynically, been likened to metal fatigue in machines. They all have a breaking point. The success rate for medical treatment of these injuries after the event is unimpressive, but the syndrome is preventable. Injuries will not develop if jobs are correctly designed to fit the workers.

It is vital that workers, union safety reps and everybody else concerned with workplace design and practice should be fully informed about this serious disease. They must be aware of its causes and of the best ways of preventing and limiting them. Overuse syndrome arises from poor workplace design, poor tools and equipment design,

Should We Respect the Limits?
or should we limit the respect?

In either case, you can help with compiling an anthology of humor for anarchists by sending (to Anthologie, c/o ACL-BP, 1186 69202 Lyon Cedex 01, France) all jibes, curses, saws, mottoes, insults, taunts, proverbs, slogans, riddles, definitions, tales, anecdotes, dialogues, apologues, speeches, retorts, jokes, as long as they

- are funny or witty or pungent,
- illustrate an anarchistic point,
- need no long explanations or supporting illustrations.

poor job design and excessive work rates. So trade union action to prevent injuries will have to concentrate on these factors.

This book will help workers and safety reps to participate effectively in planning workplace changes. That is their best defence against the sort of job design that places production demands above the health and safety of workers.

Breaking Point can be ordered through booksellers (ISBN 0 7453 1022 2) for £5.95.

Working the Waterfront

The Houston IWW is having a spring book sale in order to help raise funds for local activities.

Author and long-time Wob Gilbert Mers has authorized Houston Wobs to sell his book *Working the Waterfront* for the low, low price of only $15 (while supplies last).

Working the Waterfront is a first-person account of the rise and fall of radical labor on the Gulf Coast docks during some of labor's most turbulent times. "It's labor history the way it should be told," according to the *Industrial Worker*.

Please make checks or money orders payable to Gilbert Mers and send them to: IWW, PO Box 981101, Houston, TX 77098. Price includes postage and handling. Over half of all proceeds will go directly to the local group for organizing efforts.

Bumperstickers

Six IWW bumperstickers are now available for $1.25 each, post-paid. Each has the IWW Globe on the left. Slogans: "Solidarity Forever," "One Big Union," "Because Capitalism Cannot Be Reformed," "An Injury to One Is an Injury to All!," "Don't Mourn, Organize" "Labor Is Entitled To All It Creates!" Black ink on durable white stock.

IWW Buttons

Fire Your Boss! $1 each

Black Cat/Direct Action

IWW Globe surrounded by motto: "Labor is Entitled to All it Creates." Black & Red, $1.50.

Video Documentary

Older = Bolder: Anarchist Elders, by Zimya Toms-Trend

28-minute video features veteran Wobblies reflecting on their struggles and ideas. VHS, $32.50 post-paid

Books for Rebel Workers

Rebel Voices: An IWW Anthology. edited by Joyce Kornbluh.
Collection of articles, cartoons, songs & poetry from the IWW press. $22

Sabotage in the American Workplace. edited by Martin Sprouse.
Tales of resistance on the shop-floor to speed-ups, bum pay and the drudgery of wage slavery. $12

Hard-Pressed in the Heartland. by Peter Rachleff
Rachleff participated in the hard-fought struggle of P-9 against the Hormel Company and the UFCW. The Hormel workers' struggle suggests the possibility for the rebirth of a militant, rank & file, community-based union. $12

One Big Union. by IWW.
The basic introduction to the structure and methods of the Industrial Workers of the World. $2

IWW Little Red Songbook (36th Edition)
103 labor songs from around the world, with music & chords. Includes the classics and new songs by Billy Bragg, Anne Feeney, Charlie King, U. Utah Phillips, etc. $10

Rise and Repression of Radical Labor. by Daniel Fusfeld.
A concise history of the U.S. movement from the 1877 strike wave through the 1918 red scare trials, deportations and murders. $5

Crystal Gazing the Amber Fluid. by Carlos Cortez.
Long-time IWW artist Cortez's poetic take on life in the late 20th century. $4

Solidarity Unionism. by Staughton Lynd.
Critical reading for all who care about the future of the labor movement. Lynd offers no easy answers, rather a faith in working people and an argument that building solidarity today means nurturing resistance in the face of corporate power. $7

Mask of Democracy: Labor Suppression in Mexico. by Dan LaBotz.
Recent rank & file insurgencies, maquiladoras and NAFTA all get attention in this timely book. The need for international labor solidarity is inescapable. $14

Labor Law for the Rank & Filer. by Staughton Lynd.
Revised and updated for the 1990s. A classic self-help manual. The subtitle says it all: "building solidarity while staying clear of the law." $7

Progress Without People: In Defense of Luddism. by David F. Noble.
Technology is a political question, and too often workers and others are excluded from the decisions. A detailed analysis of technology's effects and working-class responses. $15

Strike! by Jeremy Brecher.
A history of U.S. workers' struggle from workers' point of view. Argues class upsurges are based in everyday live and rank & file initiative. $15

Memoirs of a Wobbly. by Henry McGuckin.
The memoirs of a rambling Wobbly organizer of the 1910s. How they hoboed, organized and lived. Free speech fights and "fanning the flames of discontent." $5

Break Their Haughty Power. by Eugene Nelson.
Fictionalized biography of Joe Murphy, who was an IWW member between 1919 and 1924. $12

Fellow Worker: The Life of Fred Thompson. Compiled by D. Roediger.
Autobiographical reflections and philosphy from a veteran Wobbly who bridged the generations. $10

Workers of the World Undermined. by Beth Sims.
Exposes AFL-CIA's role in supporting U.S. foreign policy while undermining international solidarity. $9

Mad in the USA. by Gary Huck & Mike Konopacki.
Their third collection of cartoons. "These unbeholden bozos are the best class-warrior cartoonists of our time." $12

Working the Waterfront. by Gilbert Mers.
Wobbly Longshoreman Gilbert Mers tells the story of his 42 years on the Texas waterfront as a rank and file radical. Workers' history as it should be told. Hardcover: $20

The General Strike. by Ralph Chaplin.
Chaplin's musical version of the IWW Preamble has the line "without our brain and muscle not a single wheel can turn." He expands that idea in this 1933 essay. $2

Food Not Bombs.
Subversive (veggie) recipes and how-to information for feeding the hungry in this society where food is a privilege. $9

Power! by MacShane, Plaut & Ward.
A history of black workers and their unions in South Africa, following their struggle to improve everyday life and transform the system through the mid 1980s. $8

Juice is Stranger than Friction. by T-Bone Slim.
Funny and irreverent, Slim's popular writings for the *Industrial Worker* of the 20s and 30s are collected here for the first time. $8

The American Labor Movement: A New Beginning. by Sam Dolgoff.
A veteran IWW organizer traces the history of labor militance and offers his vision for building a new, radical, rank-and-file labor movement. $5

The Cointelpro Papers: Documents from the FBI's Secret Wars Against Dissent in the U.S. by Ward Churchill & Jim Vander Wall. $15

Music/Song

Good News. Sweet Honey in the Rock

All Used Up. Utah Phillips

Smash the State and Have a Nice Day. Citizens Band

Don't Mourn, Organize! Songs of Joe Hill by various artists

Rebel Voices. Songs of the IWW sung by IU 630 Wobs

I Have Seen Freedom. Si Kahn

We Have Fed You All for 1,000 Years. Utah Phillips.

As Seen on No TV. Chris Chandler

It Takes A Lot of People. Tribute to Woody Guthrie by Larry Long & children

A World to Win. Tom Juravich

Greenfire. Dakota Sid and Travers Clifford

Food Phone Gas Lodging. Charlie King

Justice. Toshi Reagon

Out of Darkness. Tom Juravich

Look to the Left. Anne Feeney

All Cassettes: $9 each

Available from IWW Branches

T-SHIRTS

Sabo-Cat, Wobbly Globe, General Strike $12 each, 100% cotton. State size (S, M, L, XL) & color (red and white) San Francisco Branch, PO Box 40485, SF CA 94140.

IWW Globe Black & red, M, L or XL. 50/50, $14. Denver Group, 1130 Bannock, Denver CO 80204

Sab-Cat $8 each. Lehigh Valley Branch, PO Box 4133, Bethlehem PA 18018.

Canadian Little Red Songbook 40 songs by Arlene Mantle, Rick Fielding, Faith Nolan, Len Wallace & others, with music & chords. $5. Toronto Branch, c/o J. Dymny, 11 Andrews Ave., Toronto ONT M6J 1S2

BOOKS

Workers Guide to Direct Action $2.95. **Workers Guide to Organizing** $2.95. Lehigh Branch. Ask for catalog

Workers Guide to Direct Action 75 cents. **Collective Bargaining Manual** $2.50. New York Branch, RD 1 Box 158-B, Hartwick NY 13348

Introduction to the U.S.: An Autonomist Political History by Noel Ignatiev. $3, Denver/Boulder Group

The Objectives of Anarcho-Syndicalism by Rudolf Rocker. $1. **Shopfloor Struggles of American Workers** by Martin Glaberman 50 cents. Ask for catalogue. Philadelphia GMB, 4722 Baltimore Ave., Philadelphia PA 19143

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Can Labor Survive?

Mre than 1,000 labor activists from across the country and the world met in one of Detroit's priciest hotels the weekend of April 28-30 to discuss the current plight of the labor movement. About 125 trade unionists came from Europe, Japan, Mexico and Canada to discuss ways of strengthening international labor solidarity in the fight against multinational corporations.

Sponsored by the labor reform paper *Labor Notes,* conference sessions largely emphasized it's orientation. Thus, the inevitable calls for a labor party sometimes crowded out more substantive issues, and many workshops addressed issues primarily relevant to lower-level union officials and those aspiring to join their ranks.

However, some sessions did address important issues. "Lessons from the Front Lines," featured the United Electrical Workers' (UE) work with the FAT union federation in Mexico. UE is funding FAT organizers, particularly in industries where it represents workers north of the border, in the realization that either US workers help Mexican workers win better wages and conditions, or we will all be dragged down to sub-starvation wages together.

Perhaps the most important presentation was by Jim Wrenn, an activist with Black Workers for Justice in North Carolina. Wrenn noted that throughout the south there has been a string of NLRB elections where unions have come up short, with 40 - 45 percent of the vote. Once the election is over, unions typically either walk away or (if they are really dedicated) begin planning for a new election campaign. This "all or nothing" approach is a recipe for disaster.

Instead, Wrenn argued, unions need to build functioning unions on the shop floor whether or not they have majority support or official recognition. At Consolidated Diesel, where unionization was narrowly rejected a few years ago, workers have built a strong shop floor presence that assists individual workers with grievances and mobilizes the work force around specific issues. A sustained petition campaign (together with other tactics) won Martin Luther King day as a paid holiday despite initial management statements that they would never allow another paid day off. (Now they boast about making King Day a holiday to bolster their image in the community.) Similarly, they are fighting for an across-the-board $2 hourly wage increase in order to help workers particularly at the bottom of the pay scale to move towards a living wage. Although they have not received the full $2, there has been some progress on wages.

These fellow workers recently organized a union local affiliated to UE. They believe they can win a solid third of the work force in the relatively near future based on their history of struggle in the plant. Building on that base, they intend to use the company handbook, state and federal labor laws, and workers' shop-floor pressure to represent workers with their individual grievances, and to fight for better conditions for all. Over time, they plan to win the active support of a solid majority of Consolidated Diesel workers through a history of deeds, rather than mere promises.

FW Wrenn suggested that non-majority unions have an important role to play in building a union presence in areas, such as the south, where they have historically been weak. Nowhere in the world were genuine unions originally established through government certification or with majority support. Rather, unions were built over generations of struggle by handfuls of militant workers who recognized that only by coming together and working for better conditions could they hope to get anywhere.

Only recently has the notion of government-certified unionization (where "unions" campaign for election by promising to provide services for membership fees) displaced this history of shop-floor organizing. The result has been weaker unions, fewer members, and declining living and working conditions. If the labor movement is to recover the ground it has lost, we must return to the shop floor and work with however many workers are willing to begin the process of functioning as a union – an organized body of workers fighting for their common interests. Majority support will come with time. If not, important gains can be won anyway, while we build the base for our ultimate demands.

There were more than 50 workshops covering problems of job security, unemployment, organizing, privatization, shop grievances, labor-management teamwork, education and improved communication. Many workshops included reports about militant struggles at the grass-roots level, including reports from a contingent from Decatur, Illinois.

—X331117

McLibel & Labor

Two British activists are on trial in London on libel charges intended to force them to stop distributing leaflets criticizing the McDonald's junk food empire. The McLibel trial began nine months ago, and is set to become the longest libel case in British history. The two activists, who are defending themselves, are using the case to place the junk food giant's entire 40 year history under the legal and public spotlight.

International solidarity demonstrations marked McDonalds' 40th anniversary April 15. Anti-McDonald's leafletting hit dozens of McDonalds in the British Isles. Many returned bags of McDonald's litter to the company as part of the "Operation Send It Back" campaign. There were also actions in New Zealand, Spain, Canada, Sweden, Ireland, Poland, Denmark, Austria, Czech Republic, Netherlands, the US, and elsewhere.

The employment practices section of the trial began April 26th. The Defense will call 40 ex-employees of McDonald's together with unionists from around the world, including two union officials working at McDonald's in Lyon France, where five McDonald's managers were arrested in July of 1994 for trying to rig union elections.

No McDonald's in the US is organized, but unions have done better in France. On July 9, 1994, 67 workers at a McDonald's in Massy, North Paris, pulled a surprise strike, closing the store during its busiest period. They demanded "respect of their rights to engage in union activity, paid vacations, the right to choose their own delegates,"etc.

continued on page 8

A.F. of L. and I.W.W. — The Difference

The form, methods and tactics of the A.F. of L. differ vastly from that of the I.W.W. The former is run, you might say without any stretch of the imagination, absolutely by officialdom, the latter by the membership.

The one is simply a dues-paying machine. The participation of the membership in the union's affairs is only perfunctory, and is permitted only so as to give a semblance of democracy. Officials endorse strikes of these unions, or turn them down, as they see fit. As an instance, let us mention the pressmen's and longshoremen's strikes in New York, where the officials of both unions acted as industrial policemen for their respective employers. Major Berry of the Pressmen's union had advertised for both union and non-union men to take the place of striking pressmen. Such acts of treachery would not be tolerated in the I.W.W. for 24 hours. The pressmen put up a hard and gallant struggle but were defeated by their own paid officials.

When a union allows itself to be used in such a manner, it is as much to blame as their officials, or rather more. By their indifference and lack of interest, they are shifting the responsibility for the policy of the union on their officials. Carrying a card and holding a job is their whole concern. They say 'Let George do it.' George does it, to their undoing, as many of the members of the A.F. of L. are finding out to their sorrow.

They placed their officials on a pedestal, generous to a fault in giving them a salary that is very much beyond what they could earn in their respective callings. The official knows what the grind and muck of the factory is, and he has no intention of going back on the job, so he builds up a machine to secure himself and his kind. Feeling secure in his position, he swells up with self-importance, and his happiest moments are when he can shake hands with the boss and contract his union out for a two or three year contract.

75 years ago in the IWW press

These contracts are null and void. Either party to them can violate them with impunity. Having power, no contract is needed to enforce the demands. If you are without power your helpless officials will insist that you live up to the contract. The contract deadens the activity of the members and is harmful in many ways. It causes unions in the same industry to scab upon one another, preventing the solidarity that is so necessary in labor.

The I.W.W. organizes workers in their respective industries. Where industries are fully organized, industrial departments are formed. These departments united together form the One Big Union of Workers. The officials are only the recording clerks of their respective unions. All power is with the membership. Each industrial union determines itself the advisability of striking, and no official can deny it the right, and will receive the hearty support of its industry, as well as of all industries, if necessary, making an injury to one the concern of all, and creating that spirit of solidarity so much required on the part of the working class. The I.W.W. impresses its membership with the necessity on their part of studying, of thinking, of weighing all propositions affecting the interests of the working class, and of feeling that the responsibility for the success of the organization rests on them; to make of them union men and not merely card men; to fit them to control and run industry when capitalism shall have passed away.

This is the mission of the I.W.W. ...

Which will you have? An organization such as the A.F. of L. which accepts capitalism as a finality, or the I.W.W. whose mission is to establish an industrial democracy, in which all workers shall receive the full social value of their service to society.

The labor problem is up for solution. It is the problem of the hour. Its solution is imperative. Upon it depends the life of civilization. Are you with us? If so, join the I.W.W. at once, and don't wait till 'George does it.'

He who will be free must himself strike the blow...

by George Speed

One Big Union Monthly, June 1920

Bolivian Unionists In Prison Camps

The Bolivian government rounded up more than a thousand union militants and deported them to concentration camps April 19th in a bid to end a three-week-old general strike. The government also declared that the strike was over. At press time, however, Bolivia was still paralysed by its eleventh general strike since 1993.

Bolivia's main labor federation, the COB, called the nationwide strike when the government refused to release teachers and unionists jailed after recent protests. Police had arrested about 20 teachers and union leaders protesting against planned education "reforms." The strike also targetted the government's privatization program.

Most of those now in concentration camps were arrested when the police and army raided a national conference of the Central Obrera Boliviana. They are being held in military garrisons – some in the hottest, most remote parts of the Amazon region, places which are insect ridden and prone to tropical diseases; others are freezing in the Bolivian Siberia: the coldest places in the Andes, where the snows of winter are beginning to fall.

Bolivian teachers have been on strike since early March against the privatisation of education, for an increased education budget, and for better wages. The teachers strike mobilised the support of parents and student associations. From the countryside it spread to the main cities, involving thousands of teachers, peasants and students walking many days in "sacrifice marches" through the freezing highlands. The telecommunications system and state mines are also on strike against privatisation.

After the declaration of the state of siege the COB elected a clandestine committee of resistance that is continuing with the general strike and is organising street demonstrations, blockades, and barricades. The government is using its new authoritarian powers to persecute the unions, peasants organisations and opposition parties.

Please send letters of protest to: Presidencia de la Republica, Palacio de Gobierno, Plaza Murillo, La Paz, Bolivia.

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To join mail this form with a check or money order to IWW, 10West Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti, MI 48197, or contact your local delegate. **Dues:** Monthly income under $800: $5 per month; Income $800-1700: $9 monthly; Over $1700: Dues $12. Initiation Fee: Same as one month's dues. A low-income worker can join for as little as $10.

__ I affirm that I am a worker, and that I am not an employer.
__ I agree to abide by the constitution and regulations of this organization.
__ I will study its principles and make myself acquainted with its purposes.

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